

970.5  
~~M36 I 1~~  
-1957  
1955-1957

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
STATE OF MONTANA

BIENNIAL REPORT 1955-1957

K. W. Bergan, Coordinator

STATE DOCUMENTS



3 0864 1005 9493 9



Montana State Library

1955-1957

BIENNIAL REPORT  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
STATE OF MONTANA  
1955-1957

Honorable J. Hugo Aronson  
Governor of the State of Montana

Dear Governor Aronson:

This report is submitted, as required by law, in regard to the status of Indian residents in the State of Montana. The casual citizen may ask, "Why a separate report and a separate governmental activity pertaining to Indian people? No such report is prepared for other minority groups in the state." The answer to this observation will be found in the status of these people in relation to federal and state government. Most of our Indian people are governed by treaties and have residence in certain areas known as reservations. The treaties are agreements between the Indian tribe and the government of the United States. In the eyes of the law the treaty ranks with the highest law of the land. It is also a bilateral agreement similar to a contract which cannot be changed without consent of both parties.

When the Indian people were confined to the area called the reservation a way of life was destroyed. The Montana Indians had lived under a buffalo economy. Food, clothing and shelter came from the buffalo. The social change necessary to adjustment under an agricultural economy did not come quickly and has not as yet come to a large number of Indian people. Problems of health, food and shelter arose. The federal government has struggled with these problems for many years and has not solved them. The states and the local communities have been asked to assist. These units of government have cooperated quite well but have rebelled to the transfer of the expenses in connection with this type of work. The states and the local communities insist that the federal government must carry its share of the cost in connection with these programs.

What are the problems on Indian reservations? One answer can be found in the 1928 Merriam study of Indian people which was conducted by the Brookings Foundation. In 1928 the Merriam Study of Indian life on reservations came up with fundamental findings which are still accepted as basic in the survey of Indian problems. The Merriam report stated:

- (1) An overwhelming majority of Indians are poor, even extremely poor.
- (2) Indians are not adjusted to the economic and social system of the dominant white civilization.
- (3) The general health is bad.
- (4) Housing is deplorable.
- (5) Tuberculosis and trachoma are very serious.

Trachoma is the only problem listed in the Merriam Report which has been conquered and wiped out. Progress is being made in the eradication of tuberculosis. Improvements in other areas where problems exist are yet to come.

Some of the common features of most of our Indian treaties are the following:

- (1) Reservation lands are exempt from taxation.
- (2) Indian lands are held in trust for the Indian people by the United States Government.
- (3) The United States Government promises to provide and education for children of Indian blood.
- (4) Indian reservations come under the legal jurisdiction of the federal government for law and order.

In recent years, there has been an effort to abrogate Indian treaties without the consent of the Indian people. Movements in this direction have drawn tremendous objection from people of Indian blood and their non-Indian friends throughout the United States. This movement has given the name of "Termination of Federal Supervision by some writers. Due to the tremendous public objection from both Indians and non-Indians, this approach to wiping out Indian treaties is not very vocal at the present time.

Health became a problem among the Indian people about 1910 when the first federal appropriation of \$40,000 was made. Since that time, health has become one of the major problems where concentrations of Indian people occur. This year the Public Health Service is spending \$40,000,000 on Indian health.

Out of this tremendous confusion of opinions and ideas, one program has emerged where there is general agreement. Education is looked upon as the basic approach for the solution of all problems. Health people state that more health education is needed. Economic improvement will come only after people of Indian blood have the education and training which is necessary for them to compete in our highly organized and competitive society. The people of Indian blood are beginning to realize that more and better education is one of the requirements on each reservation.

As a survey is made and the educational background for each reservation is studied, the difference in economic status of the people on different reservations can be traced to the progress that education has made on each individual reservation. Where education has had a strong and vigorous program for twenty years or more among Indian people, the greatest progress has been made in the improvement of health and economic status. The social pattern among groups of people changes slowly and progress in social change cannot effectively be measured from year to year, but does show up from generation to generation.

The annual conference on Indian Affairs held at the State University emphasized this philosophy and we take the privilege in this annual report to quote the Associated Press Release covering this conference.

"For better or for worse, the Indian is in the process of moving into the white man's world," Dr. Leslie A. Fiedler said in summarizing the Indian Affairs Institute at Montana State University, April 13, 1956.

Saying that a return to the old Indian culture is not possible Dr. Fiedler told the Indians they would enter the white man's world by either the saloon door or the school door. He urged them to choose the school door.

Dr. Fiedler said at the closing session of a three-day meeting he was impressed by the concern for education that permeated the institute's sessions. He added, that opportunity and attitude were pivotal points of the Indian education problem.

Dr. Fiedler closed the Institute by saying, "The Indians are entitled to opportunity that could be provided through scholarships and other financial aid. The attitude that Indians are expected to get an education must be created among both Indians and non-Indians."

The above news release is typical of many public expressions that education will play an important role in the final solution of the problem which confronts people of Indian blood. This explains the need for this report and the emphasis which is put on education among Indian reservations.

Problems confronting our Indian people vary according to the level where the problem is under consideration. On the National level, the problems stem from the out-growth of Indian treaties and federal legislation. On the state level the problems come mostly from the desire of people of Indian blood to come under state jurisdiction and obtain the benefits of state agencies the same as their neighbors. On the local level, the major problems are in the areas of education, health, and economic improvement. Interwoven in all areas is the problem of tax exempt Indian lands.

Outside of the communities where the people of Indian blood live in large numbers, there is very little understanding and knowledge in regard to this minority group. Very few people realize that there are approximately a half million American Indians in the United States. Very few people realize that the legal status of many Indians is controlled by a treaty between the United States Government and the Indian tribe. These Indian treaties have been declared by our highest courts to rank with the Supreme Law of the Land. Too many people have the erroneous idea that people of Indian blood get regular subsistence checks from the Federal Government for their living and sustenance. There are dozens of organizations and hundreds of private individuals trying to help the Indians--most of these have different philosophies and solutions for the problem which result in misunderstanding, conflict, and confusion. For these reasons much of the Indian problem is in a state of misunderstanding and confusion.

More and more people are beginning to realize the soundness of the approach: "We cannot help other people. All we can do is to help people to help themselves." This kind of philosophy and this approach to the Indian problem places a tremendous impact upon the need for more and better education among people of Indian blood.

DeArcy McNickle, in his writings, states that the solution will come when people of Indian blood leave the reservation in large numbers. He states the cause for most of the problems on the reservation level is due to overpopulation and lack of sufficient resources to economically support the present population.

The problem of health among people of Indian blood is recognized. An attempt has been made to correct this situation through the transfer of all health activities among Indian people from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the United States Bureau of Public Health. The Bureau of Public Health has been providing the majority portion of the health personnel on Indian Reservations the past 15 years. It is hoped that through the administration by the Bureau of Public Health, facilities can be provided and, along with this, will come an improvement in living conditions which will include housing, sanitation, and diet. The dual programs of the Public Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs resulted in local problems which often caused racial hatreds, discrimination, and an attitude of segregation.

Due to extremely low family income and limited educational-opportunities, the health environment of the family had dropped lower and lower during the past hundred

years. The three will go hand in hand.

When educational levels have been raised and the economic level has improved and living standards made more comparable to the general population, then the health problems will begin to disappear. Indian health standards are measured through statistics which are kept nation-wide such as infant death rate, which is three times higher among the Indians than white population. The tuberculosis death rate is another index of health conditions. A survey of Indian homes, domestic water supplies, and sanitary facilities indicate the great need for improvement in housing and sanitation.

### BLACKFEET RESERVATION

The Blackfeet Indian Reservation borders on the eastern side of Glacier National Park and extends from the Rocky Mountain foothills 50 miles east onto the prairies. The northern edge lies on the Canadian boundary and extends 50 miles south to Birch Creek.

The 1951 report of the Interior and Insular Committee of the House of Representatives reported that the Blackfeet Indian Reservation carried 5,914 on its tribal rolls, and the number of full bloods was 903. The total land under trusteeship and otherwise restricted was 1,251,948 acres. The principal agricultural products were wheat, barley, flax and forage. The principal livestock industry centers around the raising of beef cattle. Approximately 2,000,000 board feet of lumber are sawed each year. The principal employment is by the railroad, ranchers and construction work. There are several million barrels of oil produced on reservation land each year. A good share of the oil income goes to people of Indian blood and the Tribal Council.

The health program includes a federally owned hospital staffed by two doctors and seven nurses. The average income per family was \$2,639 per year. The education is provided by public schools on the reservation. The Cut Bank Boarding School provides a home for orphan children and children from broken homes. These children attend the Browning Public Schools and are bussed in to town each day. The dormitories for these children are located six miles north of Browning on Cut Bank Creek. There are approximately 400 high school graduates among the Blackfeet and 30 college graduates.

The administration of the tribal property is by a charter granted under the Wheeler-Howard Act. The tribal council consists of 13 members who are elected for two year terms. The annual budget of the tribal council approximates a half million dollars.

The first treaty with the federal government was dated October 17, 1855, and provided for hunting rights to the Blackfeet in certain areas. The federal government also provided certain sums of money for the benefit of the Blackfeet for ten years. The first allotment of lands to individual members was made in 1914 and a second allotment of lands to individual members was made in 1920. The usual size of the allotment was 320 acres.

There has been a strong education program on this reservation for twenty-five years at the high school level. The Tribal Council is planning an effective scholarship program for higher education. This education program accounts for easy integration of Blackfeet people when they enter the life and industry of other communities.

There are approximately 3,000 Blackfeet who have left the Blackfeet Reservation and have established homes in other communities. Approximately half the trust land on the reservation has been patented and ownership has been alienated from the Indians.

Problems most commonly mentioned by school teachers on this reservation are:

- (1) Absence from school.
- (2) Unwise use of alcoholic liquors.
- (3) Poor administration of law and order.

#### CROW RESERVATION

The enrolled members of the Crow Reservation in 1951 totaled 2,781. The total acres of restricted land was 2,016,955. The principal industry is agriculture and the main crops are grains and livestock. The principal employment is in agriculture and construction work. There is some timber cutting for lumber; approximately 1,700,000 board feet of lumber are cut annually. There is a federally operated hospital on the reservation with two full time doctors and six nurses. The education is provided by public schools and two Mission schools. The education program among the Crow people has made splendid progress during the last ten years. The number of high school graduates is increasing each year from the public high schools at Hardin and Lodge Grass. The number of college graduates is estimated at 25 and the number of high school graduates is estimated at 300. The total number of full bloods is 1,500.

The Crow Tribal Council is not organized under the provisions of the Wheeler-Howard Act. The tribe operates under a Constitution and officers are elected by a General Council. The Crow Reservation extends 50 miles north of the Wyoming boundary. It is bounded on the west by the Beartooth Mountains and extends 70 miles to the east to the Tongue River Reservation. The Crow Indians are also known as the Absarokee. They are of Siouan stock and originally lived in the Dakotas before the coming of the whiteman.

The first treaty on record for the Crow Indians was dated May 7, 1868. This treaty provided for compulsory education of children and made allotments of lands. Three hundred and twenty acres were allotted to heads of families and 80 acres to all other members. In 1920 allotments of 160 acres were made to unallotted Crows.

There has been a good education program on the high school level for 15 years among the Crow people. The Crow Reservation is a wealthy reservation because of its splendid agricultural resources, timber resources, and mountains.

During the past year, school attendance has become the problem on this reservation. The most common explanation given for the sudden rise of this problem states that the internal dissention and controversy of the tribe is breaking down the morale, cooperation, and working relationships among tribal members. The Crow tribe is thrown into groups and segments over the Yellowtail Dam controversy. The Crow Indians have a difficult time understanding that poor school attendance does injury to no one other than the children. Unless this situation is corrected, there will be a generation of Crow Indians with poor educational background, little interest in education, and probably very little aggressiveness to better their conditions.

## FLATHEAD RESERVATION

The Flathead Indian Reservation lies on the western slopes of the Mission range of mountains and is bounded by the Cabinet range of mountains on the west. This is a beautiful valley with the big Flathead Lake to the north and Clark's Fork River on the south. The 1951 report shows 3,894 members on the rolls. The tribal report for 1953 shows 4,214. There were 292 full bloods listed at this time. The restricted Indian land under trusteeship and other restrictions approximates 645,155 acres. Over half the land on this reservation has been patented and alienated. The principal industries are grain raising, livestock raising, and lumbering. One of the big industries of this area is harvesting of Christmas trees during the months of October and November. The principal labor of this area is forest work, lumbering, construction work and commercial work.

The homes are above average, with homes built principally of lumber. There were 79 log houses listed in 1951. These houses are well suited to this area because the big supply of timber and their warmth in winter.

Education is provided through the public schools and one Mission school. There are approximately 450 high school graduates among the Flatheads and 35 college graduates.

The tribes located on the Flathead Reservation are known as the Salish and the Kootenai. Over half the reservation was patented and sold by 1934. The first treaty was dated July 16, 1855. The treaty provided for exclusive hunting and fishing rights on the reservation which indicates the importance of fishing and hunting to these people.

In 1874 the Flatheads were moved from their home in the Bitterroot Valley to the Jocko Reservation in what is now known as the Flathead Valley. Allotment of lands to the Flatheads was provided for in a federal act dated 1904. The principal assets of the Flatheads are the Hot Springs at Camas, Kerr Dam for the production of electricity by the Montana Power Company, and larger commercial timber areas.

The Salish and Kootenai originally lived in the west coast areas. They moved to the lush Flathead and Bitterroot Valleys before 1800. The Flathead Reservation was organized under the Wheeler-Howard Act in 1936 and has a charter which provides for a tribal council of 12 members and two chiefs. The hospital on this reservation is operated by the St. Ignatius Mission. There is one full time doctor employed by the federal government and one nurse.

There has been a strong secondary education program on the Flathead Reservation for twenty years. This reservation has one of the strongest educational programs extending over the longest period of time of any reservation in the state, which explains why half of the enrolled members of the Flathead tribe are leading successful lives in communities away from the reservation. Large numbers of these Indians are employed in industry on the west coast. A good secondary education program has made it easy for the Indian children from this reservation to integrate and succeed in non-Indian communities.

## FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION

This reservation is inhabited by the Gros Ventres and the Assiniboine groups. It lies in north central Montana from the northern slopes of the Little Rocky Mountains to the Milk River. The 1951 report shows 2,113 on the tribal rolls. There are 570 full bloods listed on the tribal rolls. There are 664,000 acres of restricted land on the reservation classed as individual trusteeship allotments and tribal lands. Very little of this reservation has been patented and alienated. The principal industry on Fort Belknap Reservation is ranching. The raising of wheat and beef cattle are the main products of this industry. The number of employed Indians is not very large. The principal employment is ranch work and some construction work. There is a definite trend towards off-reservation employment. The federal government operates a splendid hospital on this reservation which is staffed by two doctors and eight nurses.

Education is provided by public schools and one Mission school. There are no public high schools easily available to these children. There is one Mission high school serving a portion of the reservation. The report lists only two college graduates and 60 high school graduates.

This reservation is governed by a charter granted under the Wheeler-Howard Act in 1937. There is a tribal council of 12 members. Six are elected from the Gros Ventres group and six from the Assiniboine group.

The Gros Ventres are an off shoot of the Arapahoes and have always lived in Montana. They are also known as the Atsina.

The secondary education program on the Fort Belknap Reservation still has a long way to go. An effort is being made to provide transportation services to the Harlem High School.

There is little off-reservation employment among the Indians of the Fort Belknap Reservation. Until larger numbers obtain a secondary education and more members obtain college training, the integration is going to be slow. Relocation of the Indian families on the Fort Belknap Reservation, has been only moderately successful. It is felt that if a secondary education program was available to more of the children of the Fort Belknap Reservation, there would be more success in integration and relocation.

One of the problems of this reservation is the lack of good roads for the operation of school buses.

This reservation has voted against giving permits to liquor establishments on the reservation.

## FORT PECK RESERVATION

This reservation lies in Roosevelt and Valley Counties in northeastern Montana. It originally contained two million acres but now only one million acres are under federal trusteeship. Some 3,400 people of Assiniboine and Sioux tribes live on this reservation. There are approximately 1,200 full bloods on this reservation. The principal industries are ranching and oil production. Some members of these tribes are employed in construction work and commercial work.

There is a federal hospital on the reservation staffed by one doctor and five nurses. The education of all the children is provided through the public schools on the reservation. The principal high schools used by the children of Indian blood are at Frazer, Wolf Point, Poplar, and Brockton. The program of integration is proceeding at a steady rate with satisfactory progress. The number of high school graduates is increasing rapidly and larger numbers are attending college each year.

The first treaty with the federal government was dated October 17, 1855. This treaty protected the hunting and fishing rights of the people. Allotments of land to individuals took place in 1908 and 1914. The usual allotment was 320 acres with 20 additional acres of wooded land along the river. This reservation is not organized under the Wheeler-Howard Act. Efforts are being made at the present time to adopt a Constitution for the transaction of business.

There has been a good high school education program on this reservation for 25 years.

The number of young people seeking employment off the reservation is increasing each year. The Fort Peck Reservation Indians integrate easily and succeed well in off-reservation work. This is a treaty reservation and is inhabited by the Assiniboiné and Sioux Indians. These two groups of Indians do not cooperate as well as they should, which accounts for some lack of progress in establishing a business council.

The hospital situation on this reservation is not good. There are five small hospitals operating and each is a sub-standard institution according to the Board of Health authorities.

#### ROCKY BOY RESERVATION

In 1916, a portion of the Fort Assiniboiné Military Reservation was set aside by executive order for Chippewa-Cree Indians. This is not a treaty reservation. The name Rocky Boy came from Chief Rocky Boy of the Chippewa Indian tribe. The followers of Chief Rocky and his band are said to have had preference in being placed on the tribal rolls of this reservation. Chief Rocky Boy is noted for his close cooperation with the United States Government as compared with Chief Little Shell of the same tribe.

The tribal rolls were prepared by Mr. Oscar H. Lipps, former Superintendent of the Chemawa Indian School at Salem, Oregon, and a highly revered Bureau of Indian Affairs employee and Mr. Henry Roe Cloud, a former Superintendent of Haskell Institute at Lawrence, Kansas, a Winnebago Indian, a Yale graduate, and a highly respected Bureau of Indian Affairs employee of many years standing.

The area was 104,650 acres of land in 1950. There were 1,250 enrolled on the reservation in 1950 and 650 residing on the reservation. Of this number, 226 were listed as full bloods. None of the land has been allotted to private ownership. The principal industry on the reservation is raising livestock. There are a considerable number of employed off the reservation in ranch work, construction work, and commercial work. The economic status of the families on the reservation is not very high. The income per family is \$600 per year. Families are assigned parcels of land for their use and naturally the building of homes is not very rapid on land which cannot be owned by the individual.

The health program on the reservation comes under the Fort Belknap Reservation which is 60 miles away. There is a health nurse on the reservation and an ambulance available at all times. The education of the reservation is carried on through the four federally operated schools. High school education is provided at the Federal Boarding School at Flandreau, South Dakota. A very few attend the high school located at Box Elder. The relationships between the Indian population and non-Indian are very poor. The public school education program in this area is not well advanced, and is reflected in the slow integration of these groups into the communities where they live. The assets of the tribal council are very small. The tribal council is organized under the Wheeler-Howard Act.

The education on the reservation is still carried on through segregated federal schools for both elementary and high school pupils. This explains the slow integration and economic development among the Rocky Boy Indians. Attending segregated Indian schools, the young people lack the initiative for successful employment in non-Indian communities.

The biggest problem among the Rocky Boy Indians is to raise the standard of living. Before the standard of living can be improved the family income must be increased and the earning power of the Rocky Boy Indians must be improved. Until the Rocky Boy people have the training necessary to work in competition with non-Indian people and in communities away from the reservation, conditions will improve slowly. The Rocky Boy Reservation has limited resources which can be developed by Indian families for good family income. This reservation needs a strong non-segregated educational program to improve non-reservation employment opportunities.

#### TONGUE RIVER RESERVATION

The Tongue River Reservation was created by executive order in 1884 for the Northern Cheyenne Indians who were not satisfied with the Brule Reservation in South Dakota or the Cheyenne Reservation in Oklahoma. The reservation contains 442,960 acres of land. Very little of the land can be tilled for farming but there is some timber and considerable grazing land. There are some coal deposits in the hills. There were 1,928 on the rolls of the reservation in 1951. The number of full bloods was 1,124. The employment opportunities on the reservation are very poor and the income per family is \$450 a year. This low economic status reflects the standard of living on the reservation. The federal hospital on the reservation has been closed and health services are provided through the federal hospital on the Crow Reservation which adjoins the Tongue River Reservation on the west. There is no resident doctor, but a full time health nurse and an ambulance are available.

The education program is provided through the federal boarding school at Busby, a federal day school at Birney, a Mission school at Ashland, and a public school at Lame Deer. During the last five years, public high school opportunities have been available at Colstrip, located twenty miles to the north of the reservation. The reservation is organized under the Wheeler-Howard Act. There is a tribal business council.

Public high school education for this reservation has been available at Colstrip for only five years.

The Tongue River Reservation is not a treaty reservation. It is similar to the Rocky Boy Reservation because it was created by an act of Congress. The Indians who occupy a reservation through a treaty have certain rights which are established by the treaty and these rights cannot be taken away from the Indian people without consent of the Indians. The Courts have held that a treaty is a bilateral agreement

and is a part of the supreme law of the land. Reservations without treaties are subject to acts of Congress and can be changed by any Congress in session.

### LANDLESS INDIANS

There are several thousand Chippewa-Cree Indian people located in communities in the northern part of the state. These families were allotted lands in the homestead area because there was no more land available on the reservations. These lands are found in Sheridan County, Valley County, Phillips County, Blaine County, and Fergus County. Larger groups of these families live near Medicine Lake, Malta, Havre, Great Falls, and Lewistown. These families thrive best in those communities where they are accepted in the schools and the services rendered by communities. Every interested person should read, "The Rocky Boy Indian--Montana's Displaced Persons" by Verne Dusenberry, for sale at the State Historical Library at Helena for 25¢.

These children have had a difficult time obtaining educations. The families move from one community to another and very few enter high school.

A part of this group of Indians have been described by Kinsey Howard in his book Strange Empire. He refers to them as "Metis". These have a French-Chippewa background and they are often referred to as the Red River People. Following the rebellion in Manitoba during 1869 and 1870, they wandered into northern Minnesota, northern North Dakota, and came into the Missouri River Valley in Montana.

This has been a wandering group for the last century without a place to call their home. They were forced to flee again from Canada following the Riel Rebellion in 1885, and they are to be found in Montana as groups. There is the Fergus County group, the Dearborn group, the Milk River Group, etc.

There is no legal machinery set up to take care of this group of people and they have been shifting from one community to another as Montana's unwanted people. This group needs the help and the interest of the local community to provide more permanent homes and more permanent employment so that the children may obtain an education and the family may obtain the necessary medical needs for the preservation of health. Only through a more stable family life will the necessary health and education be provided these people so that they will be able to fit themselves into the way of life of non-Indian people.

Many people wonder how Hill 57 obtained its name. Number 57 was applied to the hill on the Army Air maps when the army was flying airmail in place of the private airline companies. Hill 57 was marked to orient army pilots coming into Great Falls for a landing. The Landless Indians established homes on Hill 57 through the recommendation of the Cascade County Health Department.

Dr. Thomas Walker took a special interest in improving the living conditions of these Indian people and prevailed upon the County Commissioners to permit this group of Indians to establish homes on the piece of county tax-deed land. These families were moved from make-shift homes in the city dump area and along the river bottom to the Hill 57 area. After this transfer they were forgotten for a large number of years until the Bureau of Indian Affairs was prevailed upon to encourage an education program for these children in the Great Falls Public School in 1936.

For several years the Bureau of Indian Affairs provided reimbursement to school districts for noon lunches of these children and a school bus to transport the children to school. This reimbursement program stopped four years ago and these Indian people are again thrown upon the mercy of the communities where they live.

### PRESENT DAY STATUS OF MONTANA INDIANS

So many requests reach the Department of Indian Affairs each year in regard to life on the Indian Reservations of Montana that a general section will be included in this report.

The full blood population on all reservations has decreased the last ten years. If this trend continues, the American Indian will be assimilated and he gradually will lose his identity as an Indian.

The common spoken language among the young people is English. However, many of the older people still speak the tribal language. Each tribe has its own language which differs tremendously from other tribal languages. Indians from different tribes communicate with each other through a universal sign language which is understood by interpreting the signs made by the hands. A very fine moving picture on the Indian sign language is available through the State Department of Public Instruction Film Library. This film carries the title, "Injun Talk" and is produced in color through the courtesy of the Standard Oil Company and stars Tim McCoy who had charge of the Indian section of the program with the big circuses of the country for many years.

More tribal language is spoken among the Northern Cheyennes and the Rocky Boy than the other tribes. Our schools still enroll Indian children from non-English speaking homes and the teachers of these children usually spend the first year teaching these children a vocabulary. This is some of the pioneering still done in education on some of our Indian Reservations.

The written language among most tribes was a form of picture-writing. The Cree tribe had a written language and today have their own newspaper in their written language.

The buffalo is almost extinct and no longer is the life of the Montana Indian based on a buffalo economy. The buffalo provided food, clothing, and shelter in the early days. The wealth of an Indian was measured by the number of buffalo skins in his teepee. Today the preferred food is beef and the Blackfeet word for beef translated literally is "real food". Indian people purchase food at the stores the same as non-Indians. The Indian of today dresses the same as his non-Indian neighbors. Many of them, however, have ceremonial costumes of fine buckskin decorated with colored beads. A few samples of colored porcupine quills still exist.

Housing among Indians is usually frame or log houses. Teepees are used only during ceremonies. Many of the houses among the poorer Indians are one room and many are covered with tarred paper to keep out the wind. Many of the houses in rural areas do not have running water and have outside toilets. This lack of sanitation causes much illness. During ceremonies teepees made of canvas and decorated with highly colored designs are placed in a circle. The poles are usually made of lodge pole pine.

Ceremonials are held on practically all reservations. Some hold sun dance ceremonials while others will hold medicine lodge ceremonials. These ceremonials

follow ancient customs which have been revered because of significant meanings. The Indians enjoy their dances very much. During Christmas season the "give away" dances are held where the prestige of the Indian is determined by the size of his gifts to his friends. This is a wonderful season for visiting. The Indian dances are named the grass dance, rabbit dance, war dance, owl dance, prairie chicken dance, and hoop dance. The young people, however, enjoy the common social activities found in our high schools and churches. Such activities include, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, High School Athletics, Campfire, Band, Glee Clubs, and movies.

The most common religion among Montana Indians is Catholic. Every reservation has several Catholic churches and Missions. Other church groups with Missions are Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Latter Day Saints, Mennonite, and Baptist. In 1850 the Flatheads sent a delegation to St. Louis to ask the "Black Robes" to return to their tribe and establish a Mission.

#### REOPENING OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE HOSPITAL

A hearing was held in Lame Deer on December 7th, on the reopening of the hospital under the administration of the Public Health Service. This hospital was closed about ten years ago by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, due to lack of staff and lack of patients. The hospital provides services to about 2,000 Northern Cheyenne Indian residents on the Tongue River Reservation. The hospital facilities on the Crow Reservation were made available to the Northern Cheyennes. An oiled road and 24 hour ambulance service is provided. The distance is 60 miles.

The hearing was conducted by Dr. Charles S. McCammon of the United States Public Health Service, Dr. Paul Ensign of the Montana State Board of Health, Dr. R. F. Peterson, Montana member of the American Medical Association Committee on Indian Health, and K. W. Bergan, Coordinator of Indian Affairs also participated in the hearing.

Approximately 15 local people testified at the hearing and represented all the local groups on the reservation.

John Woodenlegs, Chairman, Tribal Council  
Henry Tall Bull, Tribal Council  
James D. King, Secretary, Tribal Council  
Rev. Emmett, St. Labre Mission  
Rev. Schermer, Birney Mission  
Carl Braine, American Legion  
John Dennis, Ashland  
Orvil Gentry, Ashland  
James Murphy, Birney  
Richard B. McRae, Supt. of Schools, Lame Deer  
Mrs. Helen Smolz, Rosebud Creek  
Mr. Ernest King, Lame Deer  
Sylvester Know Gun, Lame Deer  
Grover Wolf Voice, Lame Deer  
Russell Gardipe, American Legion  
Mr. Hopperstad, Welfare Service

The minutes of the meeting were kept by the local Tribal Council Secretary. They have not been made available at the time of this report so that they can be submitted to the United States Public Health Service for study and report.

## LAW AND ORDER

Law and order on Indian Reservations is a problem. Federal laws and treaties give jurisdiction over law and order pertaining to Indians within the boundaries of Indian Reservations to the federal government. The non-Indian population in the same area come under state law and order. This dual jurisdiction leads to conflict. The problem is most acute on the local level. The federal government has retained jurisdiction over the ten major crimes and has delegated minor offenses to the jurisdiction of the Tribal Councils on the local reservations. The Tribal Councils employ their own officers and judges for their Indian courts.

The many complaints which arise from this type of jurisdiction indicate that the system is not working too well. The first efforts to place the Indian people under state law and order stemmed from the neglect by the Federal Government for its responsibility in this area. It can be summed up as an effort to abrogate the treaty responsibility by trying to urge the state to assume all responsibility for law and order on Indian reservations. The local communities and the state have refused to assume this responsibility without adequate compensation for the cost of administering law and order on reservations and adequate jurisdiction. Congress sought to correct the situation through P. L. 108 which gave the states the right to assume this jurisdiction if they wished to do so. This law has been ignored because it did not respect the rights of the Indian treaty. The Indian people have said that they will not consent to this approach unless the law gives them a voice in the decision to transfer law and order to the states. They feel that this is another effort to abrogate treaties.

The results of this confused state of jurisdiction and efforts to administer law and order can best be estimated by studying the effect that this situation has upon the young people. An abnormally high percentage of the enrollment in the Girl's Vocational School at Helena and the Boy's Vocational School at Miles City are pupils of Indian blood. The United States Senate Committee studying juvenile delinquency in the United States has been very caustic of the juvenile problems found on Indian reservations. This is a problem which should be studied jointly by proper groups of the state and federal governments.

## MONTANA AND THE APPROACH TO INDIAN PROBLEMS

The illadvised attempt of the Federal Government to walk off the Flathead Reservation in 1953 and leave the state and local communities to cope with and finance the many problems which confront these communities and the state awakened the people of the state to the need of a proper study of the situation and try to assist whenever possible to give the people of Indian blood the opportunities to integrate into communities outside reservations and help raise the economic standard of the people on the reservation. Local communities have shown considerable interest in two programs:

1. Bringing industry and employment to Indians on the reservations or near reservations.
2. Relocate Indian families in industrial areas where employment and living conditions are better than on the Indian reservation.

The industrialization program has lagged badly and the effort of the Federal Government seems to be near the zero point. The relocation program is progressing slowly but quite effectively.

Montana communities and organizations are beginning to study these problems so that they can understand them better. Conferences on Indian problems are held each year at the State University and the Northern Montana College. Montana citizens as well as Indian people participate in the conferences and a broader understanding of the problems results from these meetings. On November 27 and 28 a conference was held at Northern Montana College at Havre, to study the place of education in the solution of problems confronting Indian people. The leaders of this conference and the topics discussed give a broader picture for the awakening of the people of Montana to the problems which confront Indian people.

#### NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE

#### CONFERENCE ON INDIAN EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS

A conference for the discussion of problems confronting people of Indian blood in the fields of Education and Health was held at Northern Montana College, in Havre, Montana, November 27-28, 1956. The conference program included the following: Chairman of the conference was Miss Florence Schmidt. Dr. L. O. Brockman, President of the Northern Montana College, welcomed the conference members and Dr. Ben Reifel, Area Director, Aberdeen Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, presented the problem to the conference. Panel discussants were K. W. Bergan, State Coordinator of Indian Affairs; Moderator, Sister M. Giswalda, Principal, Hays Mission School; Mr. John Hart, Executive Secretary of North Dakota Indian Commission; Mr. Walter Lockwood, Administrative Officer in the Denver office of the United States Public Health Service; Dr. D'Arcy McNickle, Director of Fields Foundation project in tribal improvement, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Mr. Gene Schmoker, Rapid City Human Relations Project, Rapid City, South Dakota; Mrs. Hildegard Thompson, Director of Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Workshop Directors were:

- Section 1-Mr. Dwight Billadeaux, Principal of Schools, Sunburst, Montana
- Section 2-Mr. Elmer Main, Superintendent of Schools, Turner, Montana
- Section 3-Dr. E. L. Sederlin, Montana Public Health Service

The report of this conference will be available at the Northern Montana College sometime in February. The report will indicate that one of the strong contributors to the solution of the many problems confronting Indian people is going to be a strong program of education in the fields of secondary education and higher education. Such education programs make integration much easier for people of Indian blood. Young people of Indian blood who wish to raise their economic status and standard of living realize that they must seek employment where it is available. They realize that they must compete with trained employees and desire to train themselves for successful competition in the field of industry.

#### MONTANA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF INDIAN BLOOD

Montana State Legislature has seen fit to establish 12 scholarships for students of Indian blood who attend any of the units of the State University system. The law specifies that six of the scholarships must be granted in the field of education. The

scholarship exempts the students from the payment of fees while in attendance at one of the units of the Greater University of Montana. The value of the scholarship in dollars and cents is probably about \$75.00 per year, depending upon the fees at the institution. The scholarships are in good demand and fit nicely into the Tribal Council scholarships and Bureau of Indian Affairs scholarships. The field of higher education will not be available to very many students of Indian blood unless more and better scholarships are made available for this training. Congress is being asked continually to expand the federal scholarship program for students of Indian blood.

*H. H. Burgan*



# INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD MEETING

Senate Chamber  
Helena, Montana

December 13, 1956

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Walter McDonald at 11:00 A.M.,  
December 13, 1956.

## Members Present

Flathead. . . . . 4	Fort Peck. . . . .absent
Blackfeet . . . . . 2	Crow . . . . .absent
Rocky Boy . . . . . 4	Landless . . . . . 2
Fort Belknap. . . . . 1	Cheyenne . . . . .absent

Discussion was held on the matter of a secretary for the Inter-Tribal Policy Board. Motion by Redhorn, seconded by Belgard to accept Bergan's suggestion that he furnish a stenographer to take, and transcribe minutes of meetings. Motion was carried.

Mr. Hewankorn suggested that the Inter-Tribal Policy Board should still consider hiring a stenographer to assist and each tribe to be assessed for expenses.

Mr. DeMers suggests a Ways and Means or Finance Committee to study and recomend a budget with assessment to each tribe.

	Population		Assessment
Flathead	\$4,000	@\$5.00	\$20.00
Blackfeet	8,000		40.00
Rocky Boy	1,000		5.00
Fort Belknap	2,000		10.00
Fort Peck	est. 3,000		15.00
Crow	" 3,000		15.00
Landless	" 2,000		10.00
Cheyenne	" 2,000		10.00

After a committee of the whole discussion held on finance, Redhorn suggested each tribe be assessed \$5.00 per thousand population. Motion by Redhorn to assess each tribe \$5.00 per thousand and appoint DeMers as Treasurer, seconded by Hawley. Motion amended to include that this be an annual assessment for the year 1957. Amended motion seconded by Hawley, carried unanimously.

Motion by Morigeau that funds be used only for administrative purposes such as telephone calls, telegrams, postage, stamps, stenographer expense and other incidentals with a treasurers report at every meeting. Seconded by Belgard, carried.

-Recess at 12:15 P.M. to 1:15 P.M.-

Meeting opened with subject of scholarships for Indian students. Belgard reported on 12 scholarships for Indians provided in legislation in the 1951 legislative session.

K. W. Bergan stated that all 12 were used, but more were needed. Scholarships provide that the University may cancel tuition fee for Indian students of 1/4 degree or more Indian blood. He also discussed the anticipated appropriation from Congress for vocational education. Reservations should make plans for use of such funds for vocational training on reservations.

Mr. Bergan suggested that Mr. Burgoyne from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation be invited to one of our meetings to discuss his project. Invite Mr. Crawford from the area office to the next meeting to discuss such a program.

Mr. DeMers urged that each delegate and/or Council talk to their state legislators from their respective counties prior to the next session and make them aware of education problems.

Motion by Morigeau to urge the legislature to increase to 24 the scholarships provided and to include cancelling cost of all fees, seconded by Redhorn, and carried unanimously.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Chairman, John Woodenlegs, called Chairman Walter McDonald by telephone to state that the Northern Cheyenne's did not want a new school building under Public Law 815, for their high school. At the present time these pupils go to school at Colstrip. There also is an Indian Bureau high school at Busby, 14 miles away. The Tribal Council does not want a public high school in Lame Deer. It was moved by Mr. DeMers, seconded by Mr. Redhorn that the Northern Cheyenne request be presented in writing before any Inter-Tribal Policy Board action be taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Pat Stick and Mr. Ivan Running Bird from the Rocky Boy Reservation told of a visit to Chairman McDonald's ranch to investigate a rumor that funds were available under the Douglas Bill for rehabilitation on reservations. These men stated that the problem on the Rocky Boy Reservation came from the over population. The reservation has 105,000 acres of land. The reservation can provide economic ranch units for only 40 additional families. There are over 300 families on the reservation. The problem is so great that the majority of the population must leave the reservation early in April to obtain ranch work and earn some money. The children must leave school. If welfare aid were extended through May or surplus agricultural commodities were made available the families could remain at home until school had dismissed for the summer. The Rocky Boy people also could support some industry on the reservation. They have some commercial timber on the reservation. Mr. Paul Eagleman emphasized that the need for employment caused the families to scatter all over Montana in search of employment and then return in October or November after seasonal employment has ended on ranches.

Mr. McDonald also explained that each reservation had an hour with Commissioner Emmons at Salt Lake City during September to explain their needs. The results of the meeting were not very evident. The Douglas Bill for rehabilitation of depressed areas did not pass Congress. The number of landless Indians is increasing each year on each reservation. Some method must be found to create some employment. In the meantime it will be necessary to provide some surplus agricultural commodities to furnish food for the hungry families.

Mr. Redhorn advised that the Blackfeet Tribal Council has placed an advertisement in a national industrial magazine in an effort to interest the location of industry on the reservation and reduce unemployment.

Mr. Morigeau explained that the bill has passed the Senate by a majority of 60. It has been amended to include all Indian reservations. The bill should be revived during the next session of Congress. It was agreed to contact Congressman Metcalf and obtain more information in regard to the Douglas Bill. It was moved by Mr. Redhorn, seconded by Mr. Belgard that a joint memorial be presented in legislature to Congress to pass the bill. The motion carried.

Chairman McDonald then presented the problem of general welfare aid in the State of Montana for people on Indian reservations. Emergency relief arises when the father is put into jail and the family has no food. Welfare will not provide food in instances of this kind. The problem of residence enters into all welfare cases. It was suggested

that a study be made of the administration of welfare in the State of Washington. Montana does not give general welfare on Indian reservations.

Mr. Redhorn also suggested that a study be made of the problem that welfare becomes a lien against Indian trust land. This is a problem that needs study and clarification. Another source of irritation is the reduction in the welfare payments if the individual gets some small sum of money from some other source. Mr. Eagleman suggested that an Attorney General opinion should be requested in regard to the lien law on reservations and the reductions in payments when other token payments are made.

Mr. DeMers suggested that the Inter-Tribal Policy Board must plan a program of action after legislature gets into session. It is of very little value to request legislation unless there is someone present to do some lobbying for the legislation. Every resolution and memorial has to be followed up closely and have to be supported before legislative committees. The Inter-Tribal Policy Board members should plan to spend several days in Helena during legislative session to discuss problems of Indians with legislative members.

The problems of residence in connection with Indian welfare and relief payments were discussed again. Indians get all categorical aids such as old age assistance, blind assistance, physically handicapped assistance, dependent children assistance, but are not included under general welfare because this program is financed and administered on the county level. Mr. DeMers stated that he doubted very much that legislature would attempt to define residence of an Indian because this comes entirely under federal jurisdiction.

The problem of surplus commodities was again discussed and plans suggested to interest state agencies in this program. It was brought out that the Department of Welfare could legally undertake such a program. Mr. DeMers called the attention of the Board to the resolution passed at a meeting of the Policy Board last summer requesting this type of aid for all reservations. Mr. Morgieau called attention to the lack of refrigeration on reservations, and many of the commodities are perishable. It was suggested that the allocation of commodities be limited to the non-perishable types. Mr. McDonald told of commodities furnished students in the State of Utah and unemployed miners in Wyoming. Mr. Eagleman explained a conversation which he had held with a representative from the Department of Agriculture in regard to surplus commodities. He explained that the need for these commodities was seasonal and its principal purpose was to keep children in school.

A letter from Dr. Tascher at the State University was read. He invited the group to hold a Spring conference at the State University April 10-12. Mr. Redhorn made a motion that the Inter-Tribal Policy Board accept the invitation and cooperate with Dr. Tascher in the promotion of such a conference. The motion was seconded by Mr. Belgard and carried.

Mr. Belgard read a letter from Mr. Jerry Thumb in regard to the recognition of Mr. Joe Dussome as the leader of the Chippewa Landless Indian group. It was agreed not to participate in this controversy after Mr. DeMers read Section 6, Article 4 of the constitution.

A motion was made by Mr. Kennerly that the Inter-Tribal Policy Board meet again in January to study legislation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Belgard and carried. Mr. Belgard called attention to an invitation of Mr. Kelly to a performance at his Try-Out Theater at No. 9 Broadway. Mr. Kelly will present one of his own plays and a motion picture at 8:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Redhorn, seconded by Mr. Belgarde that a resolution of condolence to the friends and relatives of Henrietta Crockett be adopted. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned.

Walter McDonald, Chairman  
Inter-Tribal Policy Board

### RESOLUTION ONE

Whereas; The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board had previously urged that Surplus Commodities be made available to Indian Tribes of Montana where the need exists and

Whereas; a reply to this request indicated that such commodities could not be made available due to lack of refrigeration and storage space on reservations and

Whereas; non-perishable commodities would be useful and welcomed and

Whereas; Indian Agency officials have been reluctant to be responsible for the dispensing of such commodities.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board again urgently requests that Surplus Commodities, even non-perishables, be made available as rapidly as possible to Montana Indians with the Indian Agency officials in cooperation with Tribal Councils be directed to supervise the dispensing of said commodities and

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be and hereby are directed to the Governor of Montana, Montana Congressional Delegates, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs with the sincere plea that early and prompt attention be given this request.

### RESOLUTION TWO

Whereas; There exists a problem of unemployment during the spring time on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation, and

Whereas; all welfare and relief are discontinued early in the spring, and

Whereas; this created a condition which forces families to leave the reservation at an early date before school is out, and

Whereas; children of school age are taken out of school before school ends.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board of Montana has gone on record to seek the cooperation of the Indian Bureau to help correct their condition later by extending the limit of assistance to a date and by beginning at an early date in the fall.

### RESOLUTION THREE

Whereas; the passing of Mrs. Henrietta Crockett came as a shock to every Indian in Montana and

Whereas; her many and distinguished achievements through out her career were always so advantageous and helpful to Indian people and

Whereas; Mrs. Crockett was a revered and respected lady ever endeavoring to help all peoples.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, saddened by the death of our friend Mrs. Henrietta Crockett, hereby extends our sincere condolance to her relatives and order this resolution spread on our minutes dated December 13, 1956, Helena, Montana.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO  
NORTHERN DIVISION

JULIA NICODEMUS, )  
 )  
Plaintiff )  
- vs - )  
 )  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
 )  
Defendant )

No. 1898

M E M O R A N D U M

O P I N I O N

Malott, Dellwo & Rudolph, Spokane Washington  
Wm D. McFarland, Esq., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Attorneys for Plaintiff

H. Brian Holland, Assistant Attorney General  
Andrew D. Sharpe and Roger M. Stuart, Jr.,  
Special Assistants to the Attorney General  
Sherman H. Furey, Jr, United States Attorney for Idaho  
John T. Hawley, Assistant United States Attorney for Idaho,  
Boise, Idaho

Attorneys for Defendant

CLARK, Chief District Judge

This matter was submitted to the Court herein on a stipulation of facts filed herein on the 16th day of March 1954. Thereafter an offer of proof was made by plaintiff and the offer of proof was admitted over the objection of the government, and the matter was taken under advisement. This court by Memorandum Opinion, following the opinion in the case of Jonas vs Taunah, decided by the Tenth Circuit, 186 F. 2d 445, held in favor of the government and against the plaintiff. Before the Findings of Fact and Judgment were prepared and signed by the court, the Ninth Circuit had before it the case of Squire vs Capoeman, and this court, having had the opportunity to read the briefs filed in that case recalled its memorandum opinion, pending the decision of the Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit in that case. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the opinion of the court below, and had the following to say with regards thereto:



"The opinion of the trial judge is reported in 110 F. Supp. 924. Inasmuch as we agree with the judge's holding and in the main with the reasons given for it, no useful purpose would be served by our again plowing that field. Enough to say that in our view this attempt to tax evidences, at the least, a sorry breach of faith with these Indians. We may add that while the court below appeared to regard as distinguishable the decision of the Tenth circuit in the cognate case of Jones v. Tauhah, 186 F. 2d 445, we see no ground upon which the holding can be distinguished. Rather, we agree with the dissenting opinion of Chief Judge Phillips."

In reading the dissenting opinion of Chief Judge Phillips, above referred to, the question now before this Court is not directly passed upon, although Judge Phillips did not question the propriety of taxation of agricultural income or royalty income from inherited lands. He states at Page 450, "For the reasons indicated I would hold that the royalties derived from leases on the original allotments are not subject to Federal income tax, but that interest earned by investment of royalty funds, agricultural income and royalty income from inherited lands are subject to Federal Income tax."

The land in question here from which the crops were grown are allotted lands. These allotted lands were set aside to be held forever as Indian lands and it was agreed that no part of said reservation should ever be sold, occupied, open to white settlement, or otherwise disposed of, without the consent of the Indians residing on said reservation; that subsequent application of allotment acts to be effective would have to be made with the consent and agreement of the Indians, and carried with it a contractual obligation of the Government to hold said lands free from such obligation during the trust period and its extension.

This has been recognized through the years and the testimony of the Indians in support of their contention is that not only did the government through the years recognize the validity of their understanding but through its Indian agents and official documents, among which was the Handbook of Indian Law furnished by the Department of Interior, fully advised the Indians that their interpretation was correct.



Right at the threshold of this inquiry we have to look into the past. Our past history has demonstrated the desire of the Federal Power to protect Indians. Much has been said in opinions of the Court heretofore rendered, as to our duties to protect this helpless and dependent people, and this is the just rule to follow. This great race of people has been depleted in numbers; they are helpless; they are under the political power and control of the government of the United States; they are its wards; it is the government's duty, as long as wardship over Indians exists, to proceed to protect the Indian lands, and in cases such as this, to assert their exemption from taxation, if the circumstances warrant.

Judge Phillips, of the Tenth Circuit, in the case of Jones vs. Taunah, hereinbefore referred to, cites the case of U. S. vs. Rikert, 188 U. S. 432 as follows:

".....the court held that lands allotted under the General Allotment Act were exempt from state taxation during the trust period. One of the ground upon which the decision rested is that to tax such lands during the trust period would be to tax an instrumentality of the United States. Another ground was stated by the court, as follows: "so that if they may be taxed, then the obligations which the government has assumed in reference to these Indians may be entirely defeated; for by the act of 1887 the government has agreed at a named time to convey the land to the allottee in free, discharged of the trust, 'and free of all charge or encumbrances whatsoever.' To say that these lands may be assessed and taxed by the county of Roberts under the authority of the State is to say that they may be sold for the taxes, and thus become so burdened that the United States could not discharge its obligations to the Indians without itself paying the taxes imposed from year to year, and thereby keeping the lands free from encumbrances."

The government contends that the Indian status as a ward of the government provides no valid reason for excluding his income from the scope of taxing statutes, and advance the theory that it was the intent of Congress



to levy the tax with respect to all residents of the United States, and upon all sorts of income, and that there is no exception exempting the sort of income here involved. The most that can be said about the statute is that it is broad enough to include all citizens; however, it does not use the words "including Indians." It is reasonable to say that Congress gave no thought to the Indians at all. They must have had in mind, as stated in Plaintiff's brief, the history of the dealings, the treaties and agreements the United States made with the vanquished Indians prior to the passage of this act. Certainly the Indians were not consulted, nor did they have any opportunity to assert their rights under their agreements and understandings that were in full force and effect at the time of the passage of this act. When these agreements were first made with the Indians it was with the thought in mind that the negotiations should be fair. The government of the United States was represented at the counsel table with the superiorly equipped race. They dictated the terms the Indians had to accept. There can be no question that the Indians were unable to interpret the agreements and were more or less coerced in making them, and we find, upon investigation, that the agreements were generally signed with an "X" mark, witnessed by the Indian agent, and as contended by the plaintiff, there is no evidence of any contribution made to the agreement by a single Indian, or any change in it at the conference where it was supposedly negotiated. Are we going to say that the Government will take advantage of the general statement in the income tax bill that all citizens and residents are taxed, to the disadvantage of an illiterate and uneducated people? They are still treated as incompetent wards of the Indian Bureau, and leases are prepared and negotiated and their rentals collected by the Indian Agencies.

If they may now be taxed, then the obligation which the government has assumed in reference to these Indians may be entirely defeated because it



cannot be questioned that if the income tax is assessed against them, and is not paid, it would become a lien upon their lands and would not be "free of all charge or incumbrance whatsoever."

The position taken by the government in this case would be to blow hot and cold in the same breath, one admitting that their allotment act was exempt from taxation and the other to say that they could lose this allotment through another tax levied on crops grown on the allotted lands, and lose their allotment through failure to pay the tax.

There are numerous cases from appellate courts touching on this question, the latest we find being from the Ninth Circuit. The Supreme Court of the United States had not spoken on this particular question.

Here we have as plaintiff in this case, an aged Indian woman who lives alone with her son near Tekoa, Washington, and who has typical land holdings. For that reason this tax case is a typical or test case. It does not affect Julia Nicodemus alone. The decision of the Court will affect every Indian allottee in the country. This is, in effect, a test case to declare the law applying to thousands of allottees and millions of acres of similar allotments.

As is evident from Paragraph VIII of the Stipulation of Facts, Julia Nicodemus is a full blooded Coeur d'Alene Indian, and has held a quantity of land on the reservation either by original trust patent or by inheritance from the original allottee.

Mrs. Nicodemus held this land for practically all her life and, like all the rest of her fellow allottees on her reservation, at no time reported the rental income from her land for income tax purposes. All of the Indians of her reservation believed said income tax exempt and "For the allottees' sole use and benefit." Suddenly, after all these years, on October 1, 1949, the Bureau of Internal Revenue attached and collected \$3,116.85 from the tenant out of rentals due Mrs. Nicodemus from her trust property for that year.



This was to cover alleged tax deficiencies on said income (plus penalties) for 1946 and 1948. This case is a suit by Mrs. Nicodemus to recover this \$3,116.85 on the grounds that, the trust property being non-taxable and for her use and benefit, the income therefore is non-taxable and her sole use and benefit. Allegedly delinquent income tax of subsequent years and liens filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue have tied up all of this income.

Is she equal under the law or must the white man's law making all residents subject to income tax, where she is not particularly mentioned in it, mean that the Indians are citizens just like everyone else and there is no reason why they should not expect to pay taxes on their Income as other citizens do, and if they don't pay, have liens filed against their allotted lands, and lose their lands so that the government could not discharge its obligation to them, whereby they promised to keep their lands free from the imposition of taxes. The plaintiff in this case, no doubt, did not understand anything about the agreements made with the white man. She was advised and all the Indians were advised that the lands were not subject to tax, even though at a later date it is contended that these agreements were made with the authority to bind the United States government.

During all the past years they were not even required to file an income tax return, and understood that their income was not taxable and then suddenly, out of a clear sky, they say to the plaintiff in this case, "It makes no difference whether our ward be reduced to poverty and lose her lands, the taxes must be paid." The Indians are entitled to receive and keep their lands free of all charge and encumbrance whatsoever and this Court, having no exact rule to follow laid down by courts of superior jurisdiction, is of the opinion that taxation of income from trust property as in the present case, would be in violation of the government's agreement with the Indians and that the income involved in this action is exempt from taxation, and that this



court should not permit an injustice such as this when the income tax statute in question has never been held to apply to Indians for a period of 35 years, and during which time the Indians have been lulled into security that their property held in trust by the government is free from taxation.

Counsel for the plaintiff may prepare Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment in accordance with this Memorandum Opinion, submitting the original to the Court and serving a copy on opposing counsel.

June 15, 1955



PLAN OF OPERATION OF THE CROW TRIBAL

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NAME: The official name of these scholarships will be "Crow Tribal Scholarship"

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Crow Tribal Scholarship program is to assist Crow Indian youth to pursue further education in accredited institutions of higher learning. The program is limited to educational pursuit which will help the recipient in his livelihood.

AUTHORITY: Under authority granted it by the Crow Tribal Resolution attached hereto dated March 24, 1956, the Education Committee is authorized to carry out a scholarship program as provided herein.

ANNUAL BUDGET: The Crow Tribal Council shall provide in its annual budget a sum of money to be made available to the Education Committee for the purpose of providing scholarship aid to eligible and worthy Crow students.

ANNUAL REPORT: The Education Committee shall submit an annual report to the Crow Tribal Council showing funds expended; scholarships granted, including names of students, schools attended, courses taken and progress made by each student. A copy of this annual report shall be submitted to the Branch of Education, Billings Area Office, for informational purposes.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Tribal Membership; The Crow Tribal Council will select an Educational Committee of five (5) members.

School Representatives; The Educational Field Agent and the Principal or Superintendent of Hardin, Lodge Grass and Edgar High Schools, or their selected representatives, shall serve as Ex-officio members of the Scholarship Committee.

OFFICERS: A chairman and secretary shall be chosen from the Tribal Education Committee, such selection to be made by the Committee.

The Education Committee shall constitute the working Scholarship Committee.

The chairman of the Tribal Education Committee shall call meetings of the entire committee membership as necessary.

AUTHORITY OF TRIBAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Tribal Education Committee, with the recommendations of the Ex-officio members, shall have authority to carry out the scholarship program within the framework of these by-laws.

**AUTHORITY OF EX-OFFICIO COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** The Ex-officio members shall serve as consultants and shall render professional assistance and advice. They shall inform the Tribal Education Committee of the eligibility of the student to participate in the program.

**SCHOLARSHIP PLAN:** The Crow Tribal Scholarship program is to give financial assistance to Crow youth but not to carry the entire cost of the educational program. Students are expected and must be willing to carry part of the responsibility themselves. They are expected to find employment during the summer months. A savings account book must be presented to show the students efforts to help himself. This savings account book must be presented prior to the beginning of the Fall term.

The Education Committee will determine the amount of scholarship aid to be given which shall not exceed \$600 (Six hundred dollars) during the freshman year and \$600 (Six hundred dollars) per year thereafter until graduation from a four year course of study. In cases where the applicant is disabled or other special cases, the Committee may alter the amounts listed. The primary use of scholarship assistance shall be for tuition, books, and school fees.

The Education Committee may assist the student with living and personal expenses provided that the total assistance for all purposes does not exceed the amounts specified above. Such assistance shall only be given after tuition, books, and fees have been provided for, either by Crow or other scholarship aid.

Scholarship aid may be approved for accredited institutions of higher learning. Some aid may be granted for those who wish to attend non-reservation Indian Boarding schools that offer post-graduate courses. The scholarship aid is primarily intended for high school graduates.

Courses for which aid is granted must be practical and designed to help the student in his livelihood.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Scholarship recipients must be enrolled members of the Crow Tribe. Any enrolled member of the Crow Tribe shall be considered as a Crow Indian blood. Applicant must be insured for the duration of the scholarship with a reliable Insurance Co.

**APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE:** All applications for scholarship aid shall be made to the Education Committee. Applicants should consult ex-officio school committee members and utilize school guidance in regard to potential schools, courses of study, costs, etc.

**APPLICATIONS SHALL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:** A letter of application giving the reasons why scholarship assistance is requested and the plans of the student after leaving high-school.

An application blank giving full information. (Education Committee will develop such an application blank) This application blank should contain the student's budget and purpose for which the funds will be spent, i.e., tuition, books, fees, living expenses and personal expenses. Full information about the student, his plans, his background, etc., should be given on the application blank.

Three character references, one from a member of the school faculty, one from a member of the clergy and one from a citizen of the community, shall be furnished. No reference can be accepted from a relative of the applicant.

For each application made, the ex-officio school member shall provide the Education Committee with the following:

- A copy of the applicant's high school transcript;

- A summary evaluation of the student's aptitude, based upon an aptitude test if possible, for the course he has selected and his ability to pursue such a course.

- An overall recommendation concerning the applicant containing pertinent information.

Applications should reach the Education Committee by June 1st.

**SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:** The Education Committee, using the Consultive services of the Ex-officio school officials, shall determine those who are to receive scholarship aid and the amount each is to receive. The following guide-lines will be used.

Need for scholarship aid shall be the primary determining factor, provided the applicant has the aptitude and ability to carry out the selected course of study. Scholarship ability shall be a determining factor for those wishing to attend accredited higher institutions of learning.

Students shall have a grade point average that is acceptable to the college they plan to enter. They should show good character, leadership ability and a willingness to serve. Students should also show an attendance record that is better than average.

The Education Committee members shall consider the need, scholarship, aptitude, purpose for requesting aid, character and all the other applicable factors.

**PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:** The Chairman of the Education Committee or the Secretary of this committee shall certify bills, scholarship payments and to whom they are to be paid. These bills shall be paid in the usual Tribal manner provided they are within the limitation of funds budgeted for the scholarship program.

Payments of tuition and fees shall be paid direct to the school where the scholarship recipient is attending. Bills for such payment shall be rendered by the school concerned. The tuition and fees shall be paid to the school by the quarter or by the semester, depending upon which schedule the school is divided.

Any payments for books, room, board and other expenses shall be paid to the student at the beginning of each term or semester, or they may be paid to the school, if so provided in the memorandum agreement with the school.

Each scholarship recipient, before receiving any financial assistance shall agree in writing to make every effort to do satisfactory work and make the maximum use of the scholarship aid.

A memorandum agreement shall be executed with the school concerned providing for the payment of approved costs and also providing for refund of any portion of such amounts not used if the student drops from enrollment, also to provide a record of the recipients school record when requested.

FOLLOW-UP: The Education Committee members shall obtain from the school attended by the scholarship recipient, the mid-term or mid-semester achievement record. Unsatisfactory progress shall be cause for cancelling any further scholarship aid.

Every effort shall be made for periodic personal follow-up by the Education Committee while the student is attending school.

## RESOLUTION TO SET UP A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ENROLLED MEMBERS OF THE CROW INDIAN TRIBE.

WHEREAS, It has been found that there is a great need for a program to assist Crow Indian youth to pursue further education in accredited institutions of higher learning, and

WHEREAS, many of our youth are unable to attend such institutions of higher learning due to a lack of funds, and

WHEREAS, if such funds were available these same young people would be able to equip themselves to become leaders or teachers and thus could materially help their people and would become a credit to themselves and the Crow Tribe as a whole, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the plan of operation of the Crow Tribal Scholarship program herewith attached be adopted and the sum of \$3,600 (three thousand, six hundred dollars) be set aside the first year for six scholarships of \$600, (six hundred dollars) each and the same amount set aside each year until the fourth year when the maximum amount of \$14,400, (fourteen thousand, four hundred dollars) has been reached. This sum shall then remain constant each subsequent year thereafter as long as the Crow Tribe shall desire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE is herewith authorized to carry out the "Crow Tribal Scholarship" as attached with such minor corrections as may be necessary to the successful administration of the program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Scholarship Committee be allowed the sum of \$10 per diem for each member attending meetings during the year or for time spent at Crow Agency working on such applications as may be recieved.

VOTES FOR Unanmious

VOTES AGAINST \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Crow Tribal Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Crow Tribal Council

I RECOMMEND

I DO NOT RECOMMEND

\_\_\_\_\_  
L. C. Lippert, Superintendent, Crow  
Indian Reservation



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

June 8, 1956

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman Walter McDonald, Flathead Tribe, at 10:00 A. M. on June 8, 1956, in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol Building at Helena, Montana.

The following answered roll call:

Blackfeet	1	Fort Peck	0
Crows	2	Landless	2
Flatheads	4	Northern Cheyennes	2
Fort Belknap	3	Rocky Boy	0

Attention was called by the Chair as to the purpose of the meeting, thereby, it was brought out that a meeting of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board in December 1955 when it was decided by a majority vote to extend an invitation to the Public Health Service to meet with this Board and discuss pro and con regarding the status and program outlined by the Public Health Service.

The Chair introduced the following and called on Dr. Charles S. McCammon, Area Medical Officer, Billings, Montana, to make a statement. Dr. McCammon touched on Indian Treaty Rights.

1. In 1928 Public Health Service assigned men to Indian Department.
2. Transferral of Public Health Service to the Indian Department.
3. Budget - 28% increased over last year's Budget.

Dr. McCammon mentioned the increase in the staff from 127 to 192 by next year. Questions were asked by the Board Members and some were answered promptly and some needed further reference.

The Chair called on Dr. G. D. Carlyle Thompson, State Board of Health, Helena, Montana to make a statement. Dr. Thompson made his statement pertaining to the general program of the Public Health Service. Questions were open for discussion in which many points were brought to the satisfaction of the Board Members.

Sister Providencia, College of Great Falls and Committee of Human Relations, Great Falls, Montana made a short statement regarding per diem of \$18.75 for hospital care and other matters pertaining to Indian Rights.

Arnold Dupuis, Administrative Clerk, P. H. S., Flathead, Dixon, Montana asked questions which were answered for the benefit of Board Members.

Dr. Harry A. Sauberlin, M. D., P. H. S., Regional Office, Denver, Colorado made a general statement pertaining to the hospital costs and other points. The \$20.00 per day per patient over \$30.00 in the Chicago area was pointed out.

Freda Beazley representing Fort Peck Tribe, Wolf Point, Montana was the next speaker. She stressed and appealed to the Public Health Service for protection against the spread of contagious diseases, such as T. B. and others. She pointed out that by merely talking and setting regulations does not help, therefore, she is appealing for further help.

Dr. Thompson made further comments and stated that there are 3 hospitals on the Fort Peck Reservation, none of which were licensed hospitals.

John H. Casebolt, Executive Director, Montana T. B. Association, Helena, Montana stated that there is a proposed bill which will be introduced during the next session of Congress regarding the proposed hospitals at Fort Peck.

Dr. Edward L. King, Glacier County Health Officer, Browning, Montana explained the procedure he used when he took a patient under law to place him in the T. B. hospital at Galen, Montana.

Steve DeMers moved for a recess until 1:30 P. M., seconded by Whiteman, which was carried. The meeting stands recessed until 1:30 P. M.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 P. M. Question was raised on reference to the reestablishment of a hospital at Lame Deer, Montana for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

The Chair called on Steve DeMers, Flathead, Butte, Montana to read a resolution adopted by this Board in April 25, 1956. After the resolution was read the Chair asked the doctors present why this resolution was impracticable.

Mr. James D. Crawford, Administrative Officer, Billings, Montana made some explanation.

Henry Tall Bull, Cheyenne Tribe, made further inquiries.

Dr. Thompson furnished further information regarding the steps in making further study on the hospital at Lame Deer, Montana for the Cheyenne Tribe.

Dr. McCammon elaborated more on the practicability regarding the reestablishment of the Lame Deer Hospital.

Edward P. Whiteman, Crow Tribe, Pryor, Montana moved to have this Board make an official expression to let the public know its human rights. Ed Belgarde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chair selected the following to outline a resolution:  
Ed Whiteman, Steve DeMers and Frank Kirkaldie.

Wm. A. Wall, Crow Tribe, Pryor, Montana made a statement regarding the reestablishment of the Lame Deer Hospital. He reported various complaints from the individual Indian level as to the inconvenience not only to the Crow Tribe, but worse yet, to the Cheyenne Tribe. He also called attention to the fact that several recent deaths in the Crow Tribe as well as the Cheyenne Tribe is wholly caused by the present set-up of the Public Health Service when patients were not admitted to the Crow Hospital merely because the patient did not show the required temperature. After such patients were not accepted they were taken back to their homes, which is 85 miles, in the case of a patient from the Pryor District. On several occasions the patient dies at home or, if the patient is able financially, he or she is taken to Billings to proper medical care and survive.

Sister Providencia asked Dr. McCammon regarding the medical treatment for the off-reservation Indians. Dr. McCammon stated that provisions for medical care are made for Indians within the Indian reservation only.

Ed Belgarde spoke for and on behalf of the Landless Indians as to the comment made by Dr. McCammon. Why is it that the off-reservation Indian cannot be given medical care as well as reservation Indians?

Frank Kirkaldie, Fort Belknap, Harlem, Montana added and stressed why does not the Public Health Service make it clear to all Indians who are eligible for medical care.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P. M.

The following people attended the meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title and Address</u>
Frank Kirkaldie	Ft. Belknap Council, Harlem, Montana
George Cochrane	Ft. Belknap Council, Harlem, Montana
James Hawley	Secy.-Treas., Ft. Belknap Council, Harlem, Montana
John J. Adams	Sanitarian, Ft. Belknap, Harlem, Montana
Albert E. Bertram	S. A. Sanitary Engineer, USPHS, Havre, Montana
Charles S. McCammon	Area Medical Officer, USPHS, Billings, Montana
Ed P. Whiteman	Crow Council, Pryor, Montana
Arnold Dupuis	Admn. Clerk, PHS, Flathead, Dixon, Montana
Walter H. Morigeau	Council Flathead, Arlee, Montana
George L. Trosper	Flathead Council, Ronan, Montana

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title and Address</u>
Walter E. Lockwood	USPHS, Reg. VIII, Denver, Colorado
G. L. Sederlin, M. D.	Director Local Health Services, Montana Board of Health, Helena, Montana
Violet Belgard	Landless Indians, Helena, Montana
Edward Belgard	Landless Indians, Chippewa, Helena, Montana
Gretchen Billings	Committee on Human Relations, Helena, Montana
Sister Providencia	College of Great Falls and Committee on Human Relations, Great Falls, Montana
Sister Berckmans	College of Great Falls, Great Falls, Montana
Charles S. Spencer	Supt., I. S. Browning, Montana
James D. Crawford	Administrative Officer (Community Service) Billings
Forrest R. Stone	Supt. Indian Serv., Flathead, Dixon, Montana
John H. Casebolt	Exe. Director Montana T. B. Ass'n., Helena, Montana
Michael Keesis	Adm. Officer, USPHS, Billings, Montana
Freda Beazley	Representing Ft. Peck Tribes, Wolf Point, Montana
Mrs. Frank Kirkaldie	Fort Belknap, Harlem, Montana
Alice Fossen	Roosevelt County, Wolf Point, Montana
K. W. Bergan	Indian Affairs, Helena, Montana
Rev. Rolf A. Normann	Lutheran Welfare, Helena, Montana
Dr. Edward L. King	Glacier County Health Officer, Browning, Montana
Dr. G. D. Carlyle Thompson	State Board of Health, Helena, Montana
Paul R. Ensign	State Board of Health, Helena, Montana
Harry A. Sauberlin, M. D.	USPHS, Regional Office, Denver, Colorado
Henry Tall Bull	Representing Northern Cheyennes, Lame Deer, Montana
Lawrence Flying	Representing Northern Cheyennes, Lame Deer, Montana
Judge R. V. Bottomly	Helena, Montana
Annette Lewis	Vocational School for Girls, Helena, Montana
Walter McDonald	Flathead
Steve DeMers	Flathead

William A. Wall, Secretary  
Inter-Tribal Policy Board



MINUTES FOR THE NINTH NATIONAL MEETING

OF THE

GOVERNORS' INTERSTATE INDIAN COUNCIL

Sheridan, Wyoming  
August 6-7, 1956

The Ninth National Meeting of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council opened August 6, 1956, 9 a.m. at Sheridan, Wyoming for a two day session. The registration and all of the meetings were held in the Eagles Building. Mr. Steve DeMers, Chairman, of Butte, Montana, opened the meeting with introductions. The Honorable Milward L. Simpson, Governor of "Wonderful" Wyoming was the first speaker.

Governor Simpson was introduced by Mr. F. H. Sinclair, secretary of Governors' Interstate Indian Council. He extended a welcome to "Wonderful" Wyoming. He expressed the idea that he was having a hard time culling the meetings he should attend and those that he should not. Wyoming has no state record of the National Meetings of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council. So far as he knows, no one has ever contacted the state government with this problem. Wyoming also has no provisions to pay people to attend these meetings. Governor Simpson read a religious passage which applied most appropriately to the meeting. He told that people should be careful to think things through and to find the correct solution to a problem. With the help of God this would be possible. Mr. Simpson was proud and happy to have the Governors' Interstate Council in Wyoming. The council needed some type of guidance to help it through the convention in order to have both sides profit. He asked for a study of the Indian problems and to help them when they request help. He felt that this was an ideal place to solve all problems. Governor Simpson stated a desire to attend more meetings of this sort and that there should be a provision to take care of the Indian citizens and the delegates to meetings of this sort in the state of Wyoming. The Indian problem is growing.

Steve DeMers, chairman, thanked Governor Simpson for his very wonderful talk. He stated emphatically that there is an Indian problem and that the members would have work to do after they went home. Some of the puposes of the Council were to recognize the problems and then strive to solve them. Following this a number of guests present introduced themselves. The following states were represented by this delegation:

Arizona had one non-Indian delegate.  
Colorado had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
Idaho had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
Minnesota had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
Montana had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
Nebraska had no delegates present.  
Nevada had one Indian delegate.  
New Mexico had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
North Dakota had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
Oklahoma had two Indian delegates.  
Oregon had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
South Dakota had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
Texas had one non-Indian delegate.  
Utah had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
Wahington had one Indian and one non-Indian delegate.  
Wisconsin had one non-Indian delegate.  
Wyoming had two state delegates and one Indian delegate.

The meeting was recessed until 1:30 p.m.

# # #

Honorable Glenn L. Emmons, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, gave an address on developing a better public understanding and public appreciation of our American Indian people.\* Mr. Emmons suggested to Jones of Arizona, who had 1706 Navajos who could not go to school, that in 1953 there were over 14,000 never in school. Last year all of the Navajos were in schools. He was sure that some way would be found

---

\* A copy of Mr. Emmons address may be had by writing to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior, Information Service, Washington, D. C.

to get these youngsters in school. John Rainer of New Mexico said that the tribes were unable to finance programs by themselves. Commissioner Emmons said that they could obtain loans from the government with a small rate of interest. Mr. Saluskin of Washington stated that he thought this to be a non-profit fund. Commissioner Emmons answered that there was a fund such as this through Public Service Research Fund.

Dr. James R. Shaw, Chief of the Division of Indian Health, in the United States Health Service, discussed Indian health. \*\* Mr. Emm of Nevada wanted to know if it was a basic need of the Health Service to train personnel. Dr. Shaw said the program must operate on a basis of needs. We should elevate the level of Indian health and cooperate with all concerned. There are scholarships offered for Indians interested in the health field. Mr. McNickle of Colorado asked about co-ordinating public health service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dr. Shaw said that they work together well generally. There was a necessity of all the federal bureaus working cooperatively. Mr. McKinley of Utah said that Utah gets no help from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in health. Dr. Shaw asked if they got help from their state and the answer was yes. Mr. McKinley requested help to pass the sanitation bill and how to solve the sanitation problems of the non-Indians and the Indians. Mr. Moat said that the bill for sanitation in the National Congress will pass probably next session as this is the first year that it has been introduced.

Mr. Paul Jones and John Artichoker were appointed to the executive committee in the place of Dr. Leo Schnur of Secona, Arizona and F. R. Wanek of Pierre, South Dakota. There was then an announcement of the meeting of the executive committee immediately following the adjournment of the afternoon meeting. The nominating committee was then named to fill the chairs of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Directors. Mr. Bergan was named chairman by the nominating committee, Harold Farley, Idaho; Judge N. B. Johnson, Oklahoma; Harvey Wright, Oregon; and Alex Saluskin, Oregon.

The ninth annual meeting of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council paid tribute to Governor Milward Simpson for his presence, interest, and good words of wisdom for the Council.

Mr. Zimmerman of the American Indian Affairs made a report at the request of Mr. Hart of North Dakota. Unanimous approval was granted for this report. He said that his association tries to be informed and tries to inform the Indians. The Indian views are represented through his organization. The association tries to give adequate publicity to things going on concerning Indian affairs. Sometimes it is believed that the government sends out misinformation. There was not full consultation with India regarding the Suez Canal. It is the same here, we do not abide by the treaties with the Indians. Indians are afraid that organizations, some of which can help, will all endanger their freedom. The policy of Congress concerning Indians has not always been fair to them and most generally the non-Indians have profited most.

The meeting was adjourned until the next morning.

# # #

The second day of the Ninth National Meeting of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council began at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Steve DeMers introduced the Honorable J. Hugo Aronson, Governor of the State of Montana. Governor Aronson announced that he was late because of a visit with the Honorable Governor Milward Simpson of Wyoming. He said that he felt that his two delegates from Montana definitely had the welfare of the Indian in mind while at the convention. Governor Aronson told of his appreciation of this country as he is an immigrant from Sweden. He has been adopted into the Blackfeet Tribe. His Indian name is "After Buffalo". Governor Aronson has been working with Indians long before he became interested in politics. He feels that education has improved very much in his state for the Indians; however, the health and sanitation areas still have room for improvement. Montana has over 22,000 Indians on seven reservations. Montana and the delegates to the Governors' Interstate Indian Council are going to endeavor to help the Indian folks. At Browning, Montana, there is a government hospital which is working very well. Governor Aronson ended his speech with the hope that the Council can do something to help the Indians, not one hundred years

---

\*\* A copy of Dr. Shaw's speech may be obtained by corresponding with the Division of Indian Health, Public Health Service, Washington D. C.

from now, but right now and should act aggressively.

Velma Linford, State Superintendent of Education in Wyoming, delivered an address on education problems among the Indians in the absence of a national education representative. There are Indians in the Wyoming public schools. However, Wyoming is more fortunate than other states with only a limited Indian problem. Most of the information about Indians and the way that they are treated is not true. People send out information that the Indians are mistreated, ignorant, etc. One educational problem is the language barrier. This constitutes a lot of trouble where there is no interpreter. The Indians in Wyoming are showing much improvement as they are all over the country. Wyoming again is fortunate to have Indians with oil on their reservation. Another big help on the reservations is the churches. In order to form more perfect relationships with the Indians, there will have to be free expression of what Indians and non-Indians think. There should be a direction set by the Indians and then let the Indians lead the way. Our education with the Indians will be more perfect if we have an integration of some of our cultures and ways of living with their music and art and other high standard cultures.

Harvey Wright of Oregon wanted to know where the states can get money for adult Indian education, vocational, technical and business and for University and College training. They have a regular handbook to help with Indian education. They have found it profitable to terminate the bands of Indians and also that relocation in Oregon has worked well for the Indian as far as education is concerned.

Mr. Hart of North Dakota said that there is a lack of money. There was a desire of the youth to go to college or even to study for a practical education in a trade or business, but these young people cannot go because of the lack of finances.

Mr. Wright of Oregon said that Congress passed a bill for higher education with the termination law of the Klameth Indians.

Mr. Bergan of Montana brought in the fact that you have to use vocational training with relocation if it is to be successful.

Mr. Beck of Washington, D. C. said that this was in the resolutions last year. Congress has passed an Indian adult training program, but has set aside no money. Possibly other states will be able to profit from the success Oregon has had. Mr. Beck said that he felt that Congress would definitely set aside money for the adult education next year.

Mr. Rainer of Nevada said that his Indians had a desire to work out their problems, but didn't receive much help from other sources. They lack money.

Mr. Blackeagle of Idaho wanted to know how Indians could go about getting this higher education. He wondered if the individuals could get it on their own initiative or is it awarded by a selections committee. He was told that it was a combination of the two.

Mr. McKinley said that Utah wanted education separate from relocation. They have been giving extension courses. To help with these, the University of Utah has been giving leadership courses for full bloods so that they can help the Indians with University and College training.

Colorado has a teacher training program. They give special training to teachers with Indian backgrounds. These people can go into teaching without the language barrier and also with a definite interest in the problems of the Indians in mind.

Mr. Jackson of Oregon suggested a full withdrawal of the Indians. He felt that they should be completely free of the Federal Government. The government should release all control over Indian affairs and persons. There needs to be a study of the laws pertaining to Indians. The Federal Government has completely run Indian affairs for a good long time. He felt that free reservations would add to the economy of the state. We should be glad to help others. In order for the Indian to be free the public will have to help.

The representative from Wisconsin said that the state and local government worked to help with the termination there. There is a definite problem of

finances to be dealt with.

Mr. Jackson said a start should be made through state channels and begin to educate the public. There were funds set aside for the Klamath Tribe and federal funds for education. The tribe is given no extension of time for its adjustment.

# # #

The executive committee opened the session Tuesday afternoon. Steve DeMers opened with a discussion on the final program. He presented the goals and objectives to the Governors' Interstate Tribal Council and principles of the program as outlined previously by the Executive Committee. There were six major objectives for consideration. The following is the approved program:

1. The goals and objectives of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council.

A. Cooperation between Federal States and Indians in raising the social and economical standards of Indians by:

- (1) Education and training for children and adults
- (2) Health and Sanitation

States should pledge co-operation to the U. S. Public service and insist on federal aid.

(3) Resource development

States should make available their research resources with some basic conditions:

- (a) To have the states support the bill
- (b) Appropriations for help
- (c) Delegates appointed for a year so there would be some definite continuity and also to allow and exchange of ideas.

B. An early and equitable settlement of treaties and claims. It will be resolved that the Governors' Interstate Indian Council, cognizant of the importance of equitable and prompt disposition of Indian Tribal claims being processed under the Indian Claims Commission Act as a prerequisite to a resolution of overall Indian problems, urges the Attorney-General of the United States to utilize properly and effectively the additional appropriation provided by Congress for the fiscal year 1957 by increasing his legal staff engaged in defense of Indian tribal claims with competent attorneys and by reconsidering his "no-settlement" decision (which precludes equitable settlement of claims short of final determination) with a view to determining whether the principle objective of the Indian Claims Commission might better be achieved, and considerable costs to the tribes and government alike to be avoided, by settlement and compromise of claims prior to final adjudication, particularly in cases involving legal principles which may be considered as generally settled.

C. Law Enforcement

Whereas, the question of law and order is a matter of vital concern to the Indian and non-Indian alike, be it resolved that the G. I. I. C. go on record as favoring that a uniform law enforcement system be established after consultation and agreement among the tribes, the states, and the federal government.

D. Consultation and agreement on policy affecting Indian people and state government.

- (1) Transfer the Welfare Activity from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was felt that this would be more agreeable to the Indians.

- (2) Be it resolved, that the Governors' Interstate Indian Council go on record recommending that the following program be expanded in every way possible to meet the social and economic needs of the Indian people.

- (a) An expanded and accelerated public relations program creating a better understanding and appreciation of the American Indian, his traditions and customs and culture:

- (b) Consultation to the fullest degree with Indian people in programming matters affecting them.
  - (c) Intensified health program, including domestic and community sanitation.
  - (d) Education, including higher learning, and programs of adult education which will provide vocational training in skills, thereby enhancing better opportunities for employment and economic advancement.
  - (e) Continued federal aid to isolated rural communities under Public Law 815 (construction and improved educational facilities)
  - (f) Development of resources on a sound basis
  - (g) Economic studies and surveys looking toward community and industrial development programs, in co-operation with state and other federal agencies for Indians and non-Indians alike
  - (h) Expanded relocation program
- (3) To work together to help to pass this national bill: To direct the secretary of Labor to conduct a particular survey in order to assist in promoting the economic welfare of Indians living on or adjacent to Indian reservations in the U. S.
- BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, that the Secretary of Labor is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a factual survey of the national significance and industrial advantages of affirmatively encouraging the establishment of manufacturing plants on or adjacent to Indian Reservations in the United States and to specifically consider and evaluate the availability of persons of Indian descent as a potential source of labor for recommended types of manufacturing plants suited to such areas. The Secretary of Labor is directed to report the finding of such a survey to Congress, and to make such finds public, not later than six months from and after final passage of this act.
- Whereas, there is a situation existing in many states and on and near Indian reservations in several states and in the Eastern part of the United States an over-abundance of labor supply, and,
- Whereas, it has come to the attention of this convention that there has been presented in the Senate of the United States a Bill, S. 3686, which provides for the direction of the Secretary of Labor to conduct a particular survey as to the establishment of manufacturing plants on or adjacent to Indian Reservations,
- Now, therefore, be it resolved by the G.I.I.C. in convention assembled this seventh day of August, 1956, at Sheridan, Wyoming, that it be the sense of this Convention that the provisions of this Bill be given the approval of this Convention and that everything be done that can possibly be done toward securing its re-introduction and passage at the next session of congress and further that it be the sense of this convention that everything possible be done toward the establishment of manufacturing plants on, or adjacent to Indian Reservations in the United States.
- (4) Promote and encourage the exchange of information and experiences between states and promote studies by states and individual organizations.

## II. The resolutions of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council.

- A. Be it resolved that the G.I.I.C. express its appreciation and thanks to the Fraternal Order of Eagles for its courtesy in permitting the Council to use its Assembly Hall and Lodge Room for the Conferences of the organization and the secretary or president of this Council forward to the Lodge a copy of this resolution.
- B. Be it resolved by the G.I.I.C. that it expresses its thanks and appreciation to his Excellency the Honorable Milward L. Simpson, Governor of Wyoming for his interest and co-operation in the program of the G.I.I.C. and for his attendance at our meeting.

- C. Be it resolved by the G.I.I.C. that it extends its thanks and appreciation to the Honorable J. Hugo Aronson, Governor of Montana for his attendance and interest in the Council.
- D. The Council is appreciative of the excellent work of Mrs. Jean Masters in recording the proceedings of the Council and expresses to her its thanks and appreciation.
- E. The Council acknowledges the recognition and consideration of the press in its coverage of the proceedings of this Council Meeting and expresses its thanks.
- F. The Council expresses its appreciation to "Neckyoke" Jones for his efforts to make this Council Meeting in Sheridan a success.

John Shaw of Oklahoma moved the resolutions be adopted. The nominating committee consisting of Harold Farley, Idaho; Judge N. B. Johnson, Oklahoma; Harvey Wright, Oregon; Alex Saluskin, Washington; reported as follows: For Directors, Judge N. B. Johnson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Paul Jones, Window Rock, Arizona; Harold Farley, Boise, Idaho: For Secretary, John Shaw of Oklahoma: For Vice-Chairman, Francis McKinley, Fort Dushesne, Utah: For Chairman, K. W. Bergan, Helena, Montana. There were no nominations from the floor and all of the votes were unanimously cast for the persons nominated.

Steve DeMers gave his special thanks to "Neckyoke" Jones and to Mr. Jones of Texas, John Shaw of Oklahoma, Francis McKinley, Fort Dushesne, Utah, and John Artichoker of North Dakota.

Mr. K. W. Bergan then took over his position as Chairman of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council. It was decided to have the next G.I.I.C. in Oklahoma following an invitation from Governor Gary. The Governor of Minnesota asked to have the convention there the following year. It was decided to put the invitation in the files and vote on it in 1957. The delegates of Oklahoma will set the time and place of the 1957 convention and let the rest of the delegation know.

Steve DeMers moved that the meeting be adjourned.

SURVEY ON WEED CONTROL  
MONTANA INDIAN RESERVATIONS

April 1956

NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION

No. of Replies 1

I. Problem Weeds

1. Field Birdweed
2. Russian Knobweed
3. Leafy Spurge

II. Control

1. Agency purchased weed sprayer for coming year. Land operator must furnish weed spray.
2. Other than above, no control attempted.

III. Recommendations

1. Feel organized effort should be made for weed control.

FORT PECK RESERVATION

No. of Replies 1

I. Problem Weeds

1. Bindweed  
(a) No great problem.

II. Controls

1. None except with S & M stipulations.  
(a) S & M places special stipulations in land tract leases when Bindweed found.

III. Recommendations

1. Do not feel any organized effort should be made for weed control.

ROCKY BOY RESERVATION

No. of Replies 3

I. Problem Weeds

1. Russian Knapweed
2. Burdock
3. Canadian Thistle
4. Quack Grass
5. Morning Glory

II. Controls

1. Experimental spraying operation in 1952 and 1953.

III. Recommendations

1. Feel organized effort should be made for weed control.

(No Government or Tribal funds available for control -- too expensive for individuals)

I. Problem Weeds

1. Canadian Thistle
2. Morning Glory
3. Sow Thistle
4. Wild Lettice
5. Foxtail
6. Alkali Weeds and Willows
7. Russian Knapweed
8. Wild Oats
9. Leafy Spurge
10. Whitetop

II. Controls

1. Mainly by individuals and locally -- otherwise none.
  - (a) New canal banks being seeded to Brome Grass.
  - (b) Some crop spraying.

III. Recommendations

1. Make an organized effort for weed control, thereby bringing in some scientific knowledge and research.

BLACKFEET RESERVATION

I. Problem Weeds

1. Canadian Thistle
2. Whitetop
3. Leafy Spurge
4. Russian Knapweed
5. Morning Glory
6. Wild Oats
7. Goatweed
8. Larkspur
9. Death Camas

II. Controls

1. Some late fall spraying done by SMC0 in 1955.
2. Weed control stipulated in all farm leases.
3. Spraying:
  - (a) Irrigation Department sprays all irrigation ditches.
  - (b) Indian Service Roads Department does some roadside spraying.
  - (c) By State Roads Division on the highways.
  - (d) By County Roads.
  - (e) By some individuals.
4. Pondera County has a well organized program on roadsides, and is cooperating with other ditch companies with their control program.

III. Recommendations

1. Feel organized effort should be made for weed control.
2. Wipe out some small areas of Leafy Spurge now at low cost before they become widespread.

FLATHEAD RESERVATION

No. of Replies 3

I. Problem Weeds

1. Canadian Thistle
2. Whitetop
3. Russian and Spotted Knapweed
4. Goatweed
5. Leafy Spurge
6. St. Johnworts
7. Morning Glory
8. Sow Thistle
9. Burdock

II. Controls

1. Lake County has Weed Control Board set up for control on deeded land.
2. Beneficial agronomic practices recently initiated on leased lands.
3. Very little effort at control made.

III. Recommendations

1. Feel organized effort should be made for weed control.
2. Expect to spend 10 per cent of S & M Conservation appropriation in FY 1957 for weed control -- expenditure to be divided between weed spraying equipment and technical services.

CROW RESERVATION

No. of Replies 2

I. Problem Weeds

1. Morning Glory
2. Canadian Thistle
3. Whitetop

II. Controls

1. Crow Irrigation Project performs control within available funds.
2. S & M activity performs control on a reimbursable basis for a limited number of Indian farmers.
3. No effort in places.

III. Recommendations

1. Feel organized effort should be made for weed control.
2. Indian Department and State should work together.



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

MARCH 9TH 1956

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Walter McDonald at 10:20 a.m. on March 9th, 1956, in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol Building at Helena, Montana.

Roll call showed the following were present:

Flathead..... 4	Northern Cheyenne.. 1
Blackfeet..... 2	Rocky Boy..... 3
Fort Belknap..... 3	Fort Peck..... -
Crow..... -	Landless Chippewa.. 2

The chairman stated that the meeting was called primarily to formulate a program of activities for the Institute on Indian Affairs, to be held at the Montana State University in Missoula on April 11th, 12th and 13th.

Dr. Harold Tascher and a group of students attended the meeting. Due to the time required to formulate the program, a motion was made by Mr. Higgins, seconded by Mr. Monteau, to allow Dr. Tascher all the time needed to prepare a program. The motion passed.

Dr. Tascher introduced the students and reported on a previous trip to Browning. Considerable time was required in discussion and planning of the Institute, in which Dr. Tascher and the students took an active part.

Discussion of finances brought out the fact there is some money available, and it was estimated that \$1,005.00 more is needed. A motion was made by Mr. Higgins and seconded by Mr. Old Persons that the Secretary be instructed to write to all Reservations asking for contributions of \$150.00 or more. The motion carried unanimously.

The Rocky Boy delegates pledged \$100.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Higgins and seconded by Mr. Woodenlegs that the Chairman of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board work with the Committee on Human Relations.

Dr. Tascher and the students were excused at 4:20 p.m., concluding the planning of the Institute.

Mr. DeMeres reported that there will be an eighteen-state Governors' Indian Conference held in August, and urged all Indians to present their problems to him so he can in turn present them to the Conference. He also reported on Public Health and how it is operating.

Mr. DeMeres also stated that there is much assurance that the Indian Claims Commission Act will be extended.

Mr. Higgins reported on the operation of land leases.

Mr. Nault and Mr. Monteau reported on school and road conditions on the Rocky Boy Reservation.

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..

... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..

... ..

... ..

A motion was made by Mr. Higgins and seconded by Mr. Old Persons to instruct the Secretary to write to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, requesting a delay of action on changes being made relating to schools on the Rocky Boy Reservation. Also, to request that Miss Condon attend a meeting tentatively set for April 25th, 1956, and to write to all reservations that the meeting be for educational purposes. A letter to the Area Office requesting attendance at said meeting was ordered.

A motion was made by Mr. Higgins, and seconded by Mr. Trosper, that wires be sent to the Montana Delegation in Congress urging them to oppose any and all amendments to the Indian Claims Commission Act, and to work for an extension of the Act.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Signed: Ed Belgard  
SECRETARY



MONTANA INTERTRIBAL POLICY BOARD

Helena, Montana

June 22, 1955

The Intertribal Policy Board met in the Senate Chambers at the State Capitol, Helena, Montana, June 22, 1955. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Higgins and the Roll was called by the Secretary. All reservations except the Crow were present and delegates were :

Blackfeet

Mr. LaFromboise  
Mr. Iliff McKay  
George Kipp  
Dave Higgins  
Walter Wetzel

Fort Belknap

George Cochran  
George Hawley  
Frank Kirkaldie  
Mrs. Cole

Fort Peck

Austin Buckles  
James Archdale  
Hope McDonald  
Ed Reddoor  
Freda Beazley

Northern Cheyenne

John Woodenlegs  
James King  
Henry Tall Bull  
Mr. Flying

Flathead

Jerome Hewanakorn  
Henry Morin  
Walter Morigeau  
Walter McDonald  
Steve DeMers.

John Harrison, Helena  
Lois Leibach, Helena  
Supt. Stone from Flathead  
K. W. Bergan, Coordinator  
of Indian Affairs, Helena  
Harold Tascher, Missoula  
John M. Cooper, Area Director  
Billings, Montana

The minutes were read by the Secretary. Walter McDonald moved their adoption. Seconded by Frank Kirkaldie. Motion carried.

Mr. Cooper, Area Director from the Billings area, office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs was present and the Chairman asked that he speak to this Board. He spoke at length on the land policy of Indian lands. He said the main reason why the policy is as it is, is that the Bureau is trying to get the lands to yield the maximum benefit to the Indian people. This policy is established by Treaty and Executive order. Each reservation has different problems regarding land transactions, and the requirement of Manual (Title 25) provides that agencies or area office cannot approve negotiated transactions. He said that he hoped that transactions would be completed in a faster manner with increased personnel, both Indian and tribal.

Dr. Carlyle Thompson from the Board of Health was asked to make a Progress Report on the transfer of Indian hospitals to the U. S. Public Health Service. The transfer is to be July 1st, 1955. Dr. Thompson said that the U. S. Public Health Service has only been preparing to keep open hospitals now in operation. At the present time he did not know what the policy would be. Montana does not have enough funds to be effective in the maintenance of these hospitals, but 33 million dollars had been appropriated on June 20 to be used by the U. S. Public Health Service in maintenance. Questions were asked by various delegates.



After lunch the meeting was called to order by Chairman Higgins and a telegram was read.

Mr. Henry Morin asked that it be put into the minutes. Seconded by Hope McDonald. It is as follows:

Montana Indian Tribal Council  
June 1955 Meeting  
State Capitol, Helena, Montana

Sincerest best wishes to all at your 1955 convention meeting. Your continuous service to the residents of Montana and your deep concern for a nation and its communities merits everlasting praise.

We are in an era of building, the best kind of building. The building of great humanitarian work for the benefit of our nation and with the definite objective of building human happiness.

-  
Congratulations, and keep up the good work.

Signed: Frank Murray  
Clerk of Supreme Court  
State of Montana

A representative of the Farm Home Administration, Mr. Charles Conant of Bozeman spoke to the group informally on how loans can be made to Indians through their office. He said that first, the applicant must have enough land resource, a good credit rating and the "know how" to be considered. \$7,000.00 per applicant may be had and can be raised to \$10,000.00 after 120 days. Questions were asked by various members.

Mr. Higgins suggested that this Board set forth a land policy to Congress, particularly on the tribal policies. He named a Resolution Committee as follows:

Steve De Mers  
Cedar Aronow  
Iliff McKay  
Austin Buckles  
Hope McDonald

Chief Justice Adair, Montana Supreme Court was introduced. He gave us the story of the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the treaties with the Indians. Much of this story is depicted in the paintings in the Capitol Building. He concluded with a little pep talk on the work the Board was doing.

Mr. Wetzel, Blackfeet, asked for a resolution on hospitals and service. Seconded by James Hawley. Motion carried.

The chair named Walter McDonald, Walter Wetzel and Hope McDonald on this committee.

The meeting was recessed until the next morning.



June 23, 1955

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman. Roll was called by the Secretary. All reservations present except the Crow.

Dr. Harold Tascher of the Montana State University was introduced. He spoke briefly on the work that the Montana Human Relations Committee is doing. He said "Human Relations are becoming increasingly more important, non Indian with Indians, Labor and Employer, one country with another. In human relations we have life, hope, real living and affections."

"If we carry on we need memberships, group and individual along with participation."

An open forum on this subject followed. Steve DeMers said "Need for more public awarness on the needs of Indians must come. The Montana Committee on Human Relations is the implement to do it. So far the efforts have been most gratifying. The two societies, Indian and non Indian must fit together. We no longer live with the buffalo. By working individually and together we can come to a point of mutual understanding. Let us take every opportunity to present the problems we have to as many as we can."

Ways and means were discussed on how to carry on other Institutes, other caravans, like the Fort Peck Caravan and other conferences that bring out the problems, and growths of the Indians. Ed Belgard told the group about the Bozeman College Conference in December 1954. He said "we must have others like it. We are getting a tremendous response from the public and we can't quit now. Our relations with the public are paying off."

Mr. Higgins proposed a publication to show the activity of the Montana Committee on Human Relations and the Intertribal Policy Board.

Mr. Austin Buckles invited the Chairman of Tribal Boards to sit in on the Business matters with the Fort Peck Executive Board.

After lunch the meeting was called to order and reports were given from the Resolution Committees. Resolutions were read and discussed. Adoptions moved by Mr. DeMers, seconded by Mr. LaFromboise and the motion carried.

Mr. Buckles moved that this Board endorse an individual from Montana to be recognized as "The Outstanding Indian of the Year" at the All American Days celebration at Sheridan, Wyoming, August 1955. Seconded by Iliff McKay. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.



## RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, the matter of the proposed elections on amendments to the Tribal Constitutions, including the letter of Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, to the Superintendent of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation instructing said Superintendent to hold an election and the reply of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council thereto, having been discussed at a regular meeting of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board held June 22nd, and 23rd, 1955 at Helena, Montana, and

WHEREAS, it appears that the instructions of Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay, are contrary to the provisions of the Blackfeet Tribal Constitution and the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, commonly known as the Wheeler-Howard Act and said action of the Secretary of the Interior is an attempt to destroy the power and right of local self-government of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe and an attempt by Federal officials and Government employees to hold and supervise a local election upon the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and is an attempt at illegal usurpation of power by a Federal Bureaucracy, and

WHEREAS, the right of local self government is one of the most precious rights guaranteed to each and every individual regardless of blood, color, race or creed, and the Blackfeet Indian Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation at Browning, Montana, is to be commended for its courageous stand in opposition to the unlawful and illegal acts of the Secretary of the Interior as aforesaid and for the determination of the Blackfeet Nation to uphold its constitution and the law as written by the Congress of the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that we, the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, in regular session at Helena, Montana, do lend our support and approve and endorse the action of the Blackfeet Tribe in opposing the attempted usurpation of power by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in attempting to hold and manage local elections on the Blackfeet or any other Indian Reservation in Montana, and we further request that the Secretary of Interior desist from such acts in the absence of authority granted by the tribe involved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Congressional Delegation from the State of Montana, the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the House Committee on Indian Affairs, to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, to the Great Falls Tribune, of Great Falls, Montana, the Associated Press and United Press, at Helena, Montana, and to such other organizations of Indians and friends of Indians as may be meet and proper, with the request that all parties receiving copies



of this resolution give their active support and aid to the Blackfeet Tribe in their fight for the right of self-government on their own Reservation without political interference by the Secretary of the Interior and employees of the Indian Bureau.

DATED this 23rd day of June, A. D. 1955.

ATTEST:

MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

/s/ Freda Beazley  
Secretary

By /s/ Dave M. Higgins  
Chairman

R E S O L U T I O N #2

WHEREAS, the fractionated heirship lands on the Indian Reservations of Montana have long presented a serious problem in management of land use, and

WHEREAS, in many instances these lands are necessary and essential to block in and complete adjoining farm and grazing units, and

WHEREAS, any plan which contemplates alienating such lands to ownership other than individual Indian or Tribal ownership would seriously hamper and impede the economic progress of the Tribes concerned,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board hereby urges and petition the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Secretary of the Interior and the Montana Congressional Delegation to give first consideration and preference to individual Indians and/or Tribal Councils to secure and retain such fractionated heirship lands to be integrated with adjoining Indian units, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board respectfully urges early enactment of legislation providing funds under a revolving loan plan thereby permitting various Tribes to borrow from such a fund and purchase such heirship lands in trust and perpetuity.

ATTEST:

MONTANA INTER TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

/s/ Freda Beazley  
Secretary

By /s/ Dave M. Higgins  
Chairman

June 23, 1955



## TRIBAL LAND POLICY

1. Preserve the right to keep land in trust status both for Tribe and individuals.
2. Indians be allowed to take land by gift from another Indian.
3. Indians be permitted to trade and sell land amount themselves.
4. Tribe to be permitted to take land in payment of or to apply on indebtedness and retain such lands in trust status.
5. Tribe be permitted to buy land at appraised value without competitive bidding, including heirship lands, and partial interests in land and to retain such lands in trust status.
6. Indians or tribe have the right to meet the high bid of a non-Indian at supervised sale.
7. Indians should be permitted to obtain a patent in fee on isolated tracts of land owned by them, without being forced to accept patents to all of their lands.
8. Tribe to be permitted to purchase in trust status at appraised value without competitive bidding on all sub-marginal lands owned by Government on reservations.
9. Tribe should be permitted to cancel patents on lands owned by it and revert such lands to trust status for the Tribe, to retain management over such lands.

MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

/s/ Freda Beazley  
Secretary

By Dave M. Higgins  
Chairman



WHEREAS, Gene Fisher, Indian leader, Lame Deer, Montana has now finished his labor on earth, and a loss of his advice and wisdom on affairs of the Indians of the State of Montana is irreplaceable, and

WHEREAS, the path of his life work is strewn with benevolences and unrecorded sacrifices of his labor for his people yet the spirit of sadness and loss, has been felt by the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, deeply, this day assembled at Helena, Montana, this 23rd day of June, 1955, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,  
by the Board, this it has the deepest sympathy for the bereaved family, and that copies of this resolution of condolence and sympathy be transmitted, and copies of it be spread over the records of this days proceedings.

ATTEST:

MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

/s/ Freda Beazley  
Secretary  
Date: June 23, 1955

By Dave M. Higgins  
Chairman

#### RESOLUTION #5

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the Montana Intertribal Policy Board that a special request is extended to the United States Public Health Service and the Indian Bureau that the obligations now carried by the local Indian Service and the Tribal Councils throughout the state for medical, surgical and dental care of Indians whether through contract or individual authorizations be fully assured and financed by the United States Public Health Service, and

WHEREAS, in the past history of some of the Indian Reservations of Montana our Tribal Councils have had the obligation of certain health programs which, in some cases, were not in conformity with treaties between Indian tribes of Montana and the United States Government,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,  
that in view of changes from Indian Bureau to United States Public Health Service and in some cases where Tribal funds are withdrawn we urge followup legislation by our Congressional Delegation in Washington, D. C. that the Indians are fully protected by the public health laws.

ATTEST:

MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

/s/ Freda Beazley  
Secretary

By /s/ Dave M. Higgins  
Chairman



INTRODUCTED BY BALGORD, WALLACE, MANNING

-----

A JOINT MEMORIAL OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, SENATOR JAMES E. MURRAY OF MONTANA, SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD OF MONTANA, SENATOR JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY OF WYOMING, SENATOR FRANK BARRETT OF WYOMING, CONGRESSMAN LEE METCALF OF MONTANA, CONGRESSMAN ORVIN FJARE OF MONTANA, THE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, THE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WILBUR A. DEXHEIMER, COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, JOSEPH M. DODGE, DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET, GLENN L. EMMONS, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, REQUESTING THE INTRODUCTION AND ENACTMENT INTO LAW OF THE NECESSARY AND PROPER LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THAT SUFFICIENT APPROPRIATIONS BE PROVIDED THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR THE IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION OF YELLOWTAIL DAM LOCATED ON THE BIG HORN RIVER IN BIG HORN COUNTY IN SOUTH-EASTERN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, Yellowtail Dam site is located in Big Horn County in Southeastern Montana, and Yellowtail dam will be constructed across the Big Horn River, about three-fourths of a mile above the mouth of Big Horn Canyon, thirty-five miles Southwest of Hardin, Montana, and

WHEREAS, Big Horn Canyon is the passageway of the Big Horn River between the Northern end of the Big Horn Mountains and the Pryor Mountains. For more than fifty miles Yellowtail Dam Reservoir will lie within the rugged, inaccessible canyon, the steep walls of which tower hundreds of feet above the narrow and winding river bed, forming a natural damsite of unique splendor that will in future years provide Montana, Wyoming and the Nation with one of the greatest lake-recreation areas in the Western Hemisphere, and

WHEREAS, The backed-up water of Yellowtail Dam will flood no presently used or useable land, which alone makes it one of the most desirable and economical of damsites available, and

WHEREAS, The United States Bureau of Reclamation was authorized by section Nine (9) of the Flood Control Act of 1944 as a part of the Missouri River Basin Project to prepare preliminary surveys and construction of Yellowtail Dam, and

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Reclamation has long since completed pre-construction work at the site of Yellowtail Dam and only awaits a Congressional Appropriation to commence work. Design specifications for the Dam and Power Plant are available for immediate use. Surveys have been completed of the irrigable areas, and transmission lines. Plans are ready for construction of access roads, construction camp, and other essential base work necessary for actual construction to now be undertaken, and

WHEREAS, Yellowtail Dam is designed to provide for irrigation, hydro-electric power production, flood control, silt retention, conservation of fish and wild life, recreational development and other related beneficial uses of value to Montana, Wyoming and the Nation generally, and

WHEREAS, Construction of Yellowtail Dam will make possible the irrigation of some 45,000 acres of new land by gravity flow along the Big Horn River from the Big Horn Canyon to approximately ten miles north of the City of Hardin, and supplemental irrigation water will be provided for large areas now inadequately served. Because irrigation of lands along the Big Horn, Powder, and Yellowstone River is dependent upon pumping, a source of low-cost power is a prerequisite toward bringing many acres of now unproductive land under the ditch. Construction of Yellowtail power

plant will make possible the irrigation of many proposed and desirable projects along these three valuable, but in many instances, little utilized river areas, and

WHEREAS, Construction of Yellowtail Dam offers a priceless solution for equitable interstate use of water of the Big Horn by the creation of the Yellowtail Reservoir on the Montana-Wyoming State Boundary Line, and

WHEREAS, Power generating facilities to be constructed at the Damsite will have an installed capacity of at least 120,000 kilowatt hours of electrical energy annually. This power produced at Yellowtail Dam will be available for irrigation pumping, and will serve as a part of the Bureau of Reclamation's power system constructed to provide power for construction of other developments and to supply surplus power to principal load centers to permit its use of old and new industries as well as residence--rural and urban--of the area, and

WHEREAS, Fish and Wild life resources will gain by the Dam, fishing and hunting, as well as the many allied recreational opportunities that will most surely follow will be of immense value to Montana and Wyoming, as well as the Nation generally, and

WHEREAS, Yellowtail Dam as planned will be a concrete arch-type structure, towering some 499 feet above the river bed; and will have a crest length of 1,480 feet, and will have a storage capacity of 1,366,000 acre feet, and

WHEREAS, The construction of Yellowtail Dam will attract new industries into Southern Montana and Northern Wyoming, and thereby be of great benefit to the entire states of Montana and Wyoming, as well as the entire Nation by firming up the economy, and by supplying cheap power for industrial and home use, and this post war period is the time to develop such industries,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Montana, that the Congress of the United States be respectfully urged and requested to make sufficient funds available for the construction of Yellowtail Dam NOW on the Big Horn River in Big Horn County in South-Eastern Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this memorial be also submitted by the Secretary of State of Montana to the Presiding Officers of both Houses of the National Congress--Richard Nixon and Sam Rayburn--, to the Chairman of the Appropriation Committees and Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of Both Houses of the National Congress, to the Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, and Area Director of the Indian Bureau, both located in Billings, Montana, and to the Governor of the State of Wyoming and the Presiding Officers of both Houses of the Wyoming Legislature.

-----  
President of the Senate

-----  
Speaker of the House

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY ROBINS, WILSON, WORKING, McCABE

---

A JOINT MEMORIAL TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE HONORABLE JAMES E. MURRAY AND THE HONORABLE MIKE MANSFIELD, SENATORS FROM MONTANA, AND TO THE HONORABLE LEE METCALF AND THE HONORABLE ORVIN B. FJARE, REPRESENTATIVES FROM MONTANA, REQUESTING THE APPROPRIATION OF SUFFICIENT FEDERAL FUNDS TO BE SET ASIDE AS AN EMERGENCY FUND FOR INDIAN RELIEF AND WELFARE OF ALL KINDS TO BE USED DURING THE PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT WHEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHALL WITHDRAW FROM THE FIELD OF PROVIDING MEDICAL, HOSPITAL AND OTHER WELFARE AND SECURITY NEEDS OF THE WARD INDIANS OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the Federal Government previously has assumed complete responsibility for medical, hospital and other welfare and security needs of Ward Indians of the United States, and

WHEREAS, it is inevitable that the Federal Government will withdraw from this field of support, and the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana has been informed that such withdrawal is now in progress, and

WHEREAS, such withdrawal must necessarily involve financial hardship upon the State of Montana and particularly the counties of Montana wherein large Indian populations are located, on tax-exempt lands,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana, The Senate and House of Representatives concurring, that we respectfully urge the appropriation of sufficient federal funds to be set aside as an emergency fund for Indian relief of all kinds to be used during this period of adjustment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be forwarded by the Secretary of State of Montana to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to Senators James E. Murray and Mike Mansfield, and to Representatives Lee Metcalf and Orvin B. Fjare.

INTRODUCED BY ROSS, ROBINSON, McCABE

---

A JOINT MEMORIAL TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES SENATORS JAMES E. MURRAY AND MIKE MANSFIELD, AND TO THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS LEE METCALF AND ORVIN FJARE, REQUESTING THAT THE EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO LEGISLATION TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 280, PASSED BY THE FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESS, THAT SUCH AMENDING LEGISLATION BE WRITTEN SO THAT EACH INDIAN TRIBE CAN VOTE BY REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OF THE STATE WITHIN WHICH THE RESERVATION LIES WILL BECOME THE LAW OF THE RESERVATION.

---

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled:

WHEREAS, there was passed and signed into law during the First Session of the Eighty-Third Congress an Act entitled "Public Law 280", which provided that the various States shall have jurisdiction over all offenses committed by, or against, Indians in Indian Country, and over civil causes of action between Indians, or to which Indians are parties, without requiring consent of the Indians affected; and

WHEREAS, before reluctantly signing said law, President Eisenhower, did, in his message on the Bill, state that he desired the Second Session of the Eighty-Third Congress to enact amending legislation providing for the consent by referendum vote of the Indians affected, prior to an assumption of criminal and civil jurisdiction by the States involved; and

WHEREAS, there were six Bills introduced in the Second Session of the Eighty-Third Congress to provide for the necessary requested amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Second Session of the Eighty-Third Congress failed to enact the requested amending legislation to Public Law 280,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana does most respectfully urge the Eight-Fourth Congress of the United States to give favorable consideration to the enactment of legislation amending Public Law 280, Eighty-Third Congress, so as to provide for a referendum vote of consent of the Indians affected prior to an assumption of criminal and civil jurisdiction by the States involved.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8

INTRODUCED BY NORBY, DURKEE, MINETTE, BRICKER, ANDERSON (Cascade), REGAN, HOLTZ

---

A JOINT MEMORIAL OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA TO TO THE HONORABLE JAMES E. MURRAY AND THE HONORABLE MIKE MANSFIELD, UNITED STATES SENATORS FROM MONTANA, TO THE HONORABLE ORVIN FJARE AND THE HONORABLE LEE METCALF, CONGRESSMAN FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA, MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE REHABILITATION, AND EDUCATION FOR THE MONTANA LANDLESS INDIANS.

WHEREAS, a group of Indians in the State of Montana are descendants of Chief Little Shell's band of Chippewa Indians, who never participated in any permanent allotment of land, and,

WHEREAS, this group became known as the "Montana Landless Indians Inc.", and

WHEREAS, many of these Landless Indians reside near and on the outskirts of the various cities of Montana and in many cases live under deplorable conditions, and

WHEREAS, these Landless Indians are American Indians for all intents and purposes, and are not subjects of any foreign land and as such are entitled to all rights and benefits that have been extended to other tribes of American Indians, and

WHEREAS, prior to World War II a program of rehabilitation was undertaken but was interrupted by the outbreak of war.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Thirty-Fourth Legislative Assembly of Montana of 1955 now in session, the Senate and House of Representatives concurring, do earnestly request the Congress of the United States resume and initiate an adequate program of recognition, education, and rehabilitation, designed to put the Indians on a self-supporting basis equal to that enjoyed by other citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this memorial be transmitted by the Secretary of the State of Montana to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 10

INTRODUCED BY PARKER (Pondera), TANGE, MINETTE, HESS

-----

A JOINT MEMORIAL OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE HONORABLE JAMES E. MURRAY, AND MIKE MANSFIELD, UNITED STATES SENATORS FROM MONTANA, TO THE HONORABLE LEE METCALF AND ORVIN B. FJARE, REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA, AND TO THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS McKAY, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE HONORABLE GLENN EMMONS, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, REQUESTING THAT CONGRESS AUTHORIZE LONG TERM CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THE STATE OF MONTANA WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE SPECIFIC SUMS OF MONEY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR SERVICES RENDERED ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Congress of United States has been actively legislating to terminate supervision of Indian Affairs on reservations in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has absorbed this philosophy in the administration of Indian Affairs and has offered contracts to various state agencies asking them to take over such functions for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on reservations in the State of Montana such as the extension service, schools, roads, welfare, and health, and

WHEREAS, the United States Government by treaty and statute is responsible for law and order on Indian Reservations but has not effectively administered this responsibility and furthermore have attempted to transfer this responsibility to the Counties of Montana frequently without reimbursement, and

WHEREAS, the problems and impacts among Indian people on reservations in areas of health, education, roads and economic conditions, are the result of inconsistent policies of the federal government and have not been created by local Indian Communities; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has been striving for years to solve these problems and remove these impacts with only a reasonable degree of success throughout one hundred years of effort and millions of dollars of money, and

WHEREAS, the federal government desires to transfer these responsibilities to the counties and apparently expects the counties to solve these problems within a relatively short period of time and without giving the counties specific assurance of reimbursement over a period of years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Montana State Legislature request Congress to enter into long term contracts with the State of Montana which would guarantee to the State of Montana and the local governmental units specific sums of money over a long period of years or to enable them to carry out the government functions now rendered by the federal government so that the State of Montana and local taxpayers will be able to solve and administer these problems, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State of the State of Montana transmit this Memorial to the various federal governmental officials, agencies and committees referred to in the title of this Memorial.

MONTANA INTERTRIBAL POLICY BOARD  
Helena, Montana  
February 9, 1955

The Intertribal Policy Board met in the Sam W. Mitchell Buidling, February 9, 1955. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Higgins. Roll was called by the Secretary. A quorum was present. Attending were:

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kirkaldie, Ft. Belknap	Henry Morin, Flathead
James Hawley, Fort Belknap	Jerome Hewankorn, Flathead
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Belgarde, Landless Indians	Freda Beazley, Secretary, Fort Peck
Dave Higgins, Chairman, Blackfeet	Cedar Aronow, Attorney for Blackfeet
Walter McDonald, Flathead	K. W. Bergan, Coordinator

Since everyone had read the minutes the chair asked that the reading of them be dispensed with. No corrections.

Mr. McDonald, Chairman of the Flathead Tribal Council was asked to give his report on his recent trip to Washington which was made because of litigation with the Montana Power Company. He said that their delegation had no trouble in getting appointments for interviews and meetings and were told that the "Heads of Reservations" have authority in the eyes of our Montana delegation in Congress to say whether or not liquidation should begin. They talked with various men in the Commissioners office re our land policy. A report was given them and the commissioners representatives felt that a change would be made in our land policy.

The death of Mr. Tennison of Omaha, Nebraska left the Flathead Tribes without an attorney. The tribes have recently been interviewing various attorneys to fill the vacancy.

Mr. McDonald also reported that various groups within the tribes are circulating petitions to get enough signers to have introduced in Congress, another "termination bill."

Mr. Higgins asked that Mr. Bill Zimmerman of Washington, D. C. be written asking how and what he could do for us, the Policy Board, to help us on preliminary work and appointments prior to going into Washington.

Mr. Higgins read Bureau Proposal of Amendments to Public Law 280 sent to each reservation by Assistant Secretary of Interior, Orme Lewis. A resolution of Protest on the above proposal was written. It was moved by Walter McDonald that Resolution be adopted and sent to Area Director of the Billings Area Office, the Montana Congressional Delegation and to Orme Lewis. The motion was seconded by James Hawley.

A motion was made by Henry Morin and seconded by Ed Belgarde that we write Congressman Lee Metcalf asking him to change or amend his bill H.R. 1591 to read "Degree of Indian blood be one half instead of three-fourths, and to also write Congressman Metcalf thanking him for his H. R. 2624 (Public Law 280) and to assure

The first of these is the question of the origin of the human race. It is generally admitted that the human race is descended from a common ancestor, but the question of the exact nature of this ancestor is still a matter of debate. Some authorities believe that the human race is descended from a single pair of individuals, while others believe that it is descended from a larger number of individuals. The question of the origin of the human race is one of the most important and interesting questions in the history of science.

The second question is the question of the development of the human race. It is generally admitted that the human race has developed from a lower state to a higher state, but the question of the exact nature of this development is still a matter of debate. Some authorities believe that the human race has developed from a lower state to a higher state, while others believe that it has developed from a higher state to a lower state. The question of the development of the human race is one of the most important and interesting questions in the history of science.

The third question is the question of the distribution of the human race. It is generally admitted that the human race is distributed throughout the world, but the question of the exact nature of this distribution is still a matter of debate. Some authorities believe that the human race is distributed throughout the world, while others believe that it is distributed only in certain parts of the world. The question of the distribution of the human race is one of the most important and interesting questions in the history of science.

The fourth question is the question of the future of the human race. It is generally admitted that the human race will continue to exist, but the question of the exact nature of this future is still a matter of debate. Some authorities believe that the human race will continue to exist, while others believe that it will be destroyed. The question of the future of the human race is one of the most important and interesting questions in the history of science.

him of our whole hearted support and that if necessary we would go into Washington to support him.

Mr. McDonald moved that the Board adopt House Joint Resolution No. 8 for the Landless Indians. The motion was seconded by Frank Kirkaldie. The motion carried.

Mr. McDonald moved that we recommend an amendment to Joint Memorial No. 3 on Yellowtail Dam to read "with consent of Crow Indians." The motion was seconded by Ed Belgarde.

Mr. McDonald moved that a resolution be written on Senate Bill 401 by Malone. The motion was seconded by Frank Kirkaldie. The motion carried.

Adjournment until 10 A. M. on February 10th.

The Inter Tribal Policy Board met at the request of Dr. Tascher of the State University for the planning of the Indian Institute. The meeting was in Room 229 of the Mitchell Building.

The Institute is to be held April 21-22-23 at Missoula. Dr. Tascher felt that every emphasis be given to encourage Indian leaders in the workshops this year. The Policy Board sent a telegram to Mrs. Helen Peterson, Executive Director of National Congress of American Indians asking for the participation of the N.C.A.I. at the Institute.

Walter McDonald was named Program Chairman for the Institute. He will arrange with Dr. Tascher the workshops and get the principal speaker. A long discussion was held in regard to dancers, barbeque, art displays, etc. The Fort Belknap Indians present gave \$100 toward financing the Institute. Money given toward the Institute should be sent to K. W. Bergan, Coordinator of Indian Affairs, Helena, Mont.

February 10, 1955

The Policy Board met in the Conference Room of the Board of Health, Mitchell Building. The order of business was dispensed. Dr. Carlyle Thompson talked aid to the delegates informally. \$41,000,000 is asked for in appropriation from Congress. This figure is nearly twice as much as was asked for Public Health for Indians. Units will be set up in cooperation with Counties. Preventative Health Service will be greater and at present the Board of Health can not tell what the outcome will be on treatment. More doctors and more specialists will come to Indian Health Service under the Public Health Service.



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there was introduced in the Senate of the United States, Senate Bill 401 to liquidate Indian Reservations and take away Indian lands and do away with the Wheeler-Howard Act, (48 Stat. 984), and

WHEREAS, S401 attempts to accomplish that which the U. S. Army did not do during the early history of our country, that is, take away from Indians the last acre of their land and all Tribal assets and turn over every last bit of "Indian Country" to the non-Indian, and

WHEREAS, S401 unilaterally and without consent of the Indians, violates and terminates every Treaty entered into by the United States Government with the respective Indian Tribes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board composed of representatives of all the Tribes located within the State of Montana, and representing some 30,000 Indian peoples, do hereby express our unalterable opposition to the passage of S401 and respectfully urge and petition the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to kill this unfair legislation, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to every member of the Senate of the United States and to the National Congress of American Indians.

ATTEST:

s/ Freda A. Beazley  
Secretary

s/ Dave M. Higgins, President  
Inter-tribal Policy Board



## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there was mailed to all Chairman of Tribal Councils by Commissioner Emmons, a copy of the draft of proposed legislation to amend Public Law 280 together with explanatory material by Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Orme Lewis, and

WHEREAS, we are appreciative of being advised of the action of the Indian Bureau even though this advise came after the action was taken without consent and approval of the Indian Tribes of the form and language of the proposed amendment to Public Law 280, and

WHEREAS, we feel that the term "full consultation" as used by President Eisenhower was intended by the President to mean consent and approval by the Indian Tribes and not the Indian Bureau's concept of telling Indians what the Bureau has done to satisfy the term "consultation" and then going ahead with the action regardless of the approval or disapproval of the Indian Tribes, and

WHEREAS, we feel that H. R. 2624 introduced by Lee Metcalf of Montana, is a simple amendment of Public Law 280 which has our wholehearted approval, and the Indian Bureau's proposed amendment is cumbersome and intentionally avoids the provision of consent and approval of Indian Tribes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board made up of representatives of each Tribe located within the State of Montana and representing some 30,000 Indian peoples, do hereby give our approval and urge the passage of H. R. 2624 and we do hereby express our opposition to the form and involved provisions of the Indian Bureau's proposed Amendment.

ATTEST:

s/ Freda A. Beazley  
Secretary

s/ Dave M. Higgins, President  
Inter-tribal Policy Board



INTER TRIBAL POLICY BOARD  
Helena, Montana  
January 12, 1955

TO THE HONORABLE

Indian Affairs Committee in the Senate of the Montana  
State Legislature

and

Federal Relations Committee in the House of Representatives  
of the Montana State Legislature

Gentlemen:

The Montana State Inter-Tribal Policy Board for the State of Montana which is composed of two representatives from each of the Tribal Councils in the State of Montana and two representatives from the Montana Landless Indians Inc. herewith sends its greetings and best wishes for a successful session of Legislature.

The Inter-Tribal Policy Board also offers its services in any capacity that is helpful to the Members of the thirty-fourth Legislative Assembly in Montana.

The Inter-Tribal Policy Board feel that it can give valuable information in regard to the interpretation of state legislation in the light of federal laws, regulations and existing treaties of the Indian tribes.

We would appreciate an invitation to appear before your committee on all legislation pertaining to Indians and Indian reservations and present the Indian point of view and the impacts upon the State of Montana.

Respectfully submitted

Montana Inter Tribal Policy Board

Stephen DeMers Vice Chairman  
Stephen DeMers

Freda Beazley Secretary  
Freda Beazley

1940

1944

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF  
MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Indian Tribes of the State of Montana, of the United States of America, invoking the Blessings of Almighty God upon our efforts in Convention assembled, in order to secure and to preserve to ourselves and our descendents, the rights under Indian Treaties with the United States and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the Laws and Constitutions of the State of Montana and the United States; to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian race; to preserve Indian cultural values; and otherwise promote the common welfare of the Indians in the State of Montana--do establish this organization and solemnly pledge our honor and devotion to and adopt the following Constitution and Bylaws:

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board shall be composed of two official delegates from each of the seven Reservations and two delegates representing the Landless Indians of Montana. Said delegates shall be appointed by their respective reservation Councils and each delegation shall be entitled to one vote. The Reservations and the Landless Indians may also appoint alternates to act in the absence of regular delegates.

ARTICLE II

The Chairman, two Vice Chairman, and Secretary Treasurer shall be elected to hold office for two years.

ARTICLE III

Any matters of business coming before this Board shall be voted on, by voice, standing, hand raising, or secret ballot as the Board shall determine on each subject. An effort shall be made to obtain unanimous agreement prior to final vote.

ARTICLE IV

It shall be the policy of the Board to follow Roberts Rules of Order in the conduct of its affairs, however, said rules may be suspended to cover special cases by decision of the Chairman.

ARTICLE V

The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board in Regular or Special Session, reserves unto itself the right to recommend to the Reservation Councils the removal for cause, any officer or member of this Board for misconduct or negligence or non-diligence in connection with the duties as a Board Member as set forth in the Preamble.

ARTICLE VI

Powers, Duties, and Functions of Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board.

1. The Board shall meet on call of the Chairman as often as Tribal business demands. The Chairman shall call a meeting upon the request of the Coordinator or Governor or of a majority of the delegates. Individual Tribal Councils may recommend

the calling of such meetings for good and sufficient reasons.

2. The Chairman shall have no vote unless there be a tie vote before the Board, but shall be entitled to comment on any question before the Board. No member shall take more than a period of fifteen minutes to open, or more than fifteen minutes to close an issue unless he secures unanimous consent of assembly to continue. And no member shall have more than five minutes in opposition or concurrence to the subject unless he likewise obtains unanimous consent of members.

3. It shall be the duty of this Board to study, consider, accumulate, compile, and assemble information on any phase of Indian Affairs as they may concern Montana Indians and to convey its recommendations to the Coordinator, to the Governor, to the State Legislature, to Federal, State, County Offices, to the Congress of the United States, and to others concerned, and in addition to advise the Secretary of Interior and appropriate committees of Congress in regard to all appropriation estimates or Federal Projects which may affect the Indians of Montana.

4. It is not, and shall not be, the intention of this Board to infringe upon, abrogate, or interfere with any of the respective Tribal Councils of Montana Indian Reservations in the conduct of their Tribal Affairs.

5. The Board may at its discretion and by Resolution only, delegate its authority as herein contained, but may at any time revoke such delegation of its authority by a simple majority vote. No business may be conducted except by a quorum of the member delegates. A quorum shall comprise a majority of voting member delegates.

6. Except where otherwise specified in this Constitution and Bylaws, decisions of the Board shall be by a simple majority of the votes cast.

7. The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board shall never become an affiliate of any political party.

8. No Federal or State Employee permanently employed, may hold any elective or appointive position on this Board.

## BYLAWS

### Duties of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board

#### ARTICLE I

1. The Chairman of the Board shall preside over all Board meetings of the Board, perform all duties of the Chairman, and exercise such authority as designated by the Board.

2. The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman when called upon so to do, shall in the absence of the Chairman, preside and have such privilege as designated to the Chairman under Section 1.

3. The Secretary of the Board shall forward copies of all minutes of all meetings to the Tribal Councils of all Indian Reservations, to each member of the Board, to the State Coordinator of Indian Affairs, to the Governor of Montana, and to any other source as directed by the Chairman or Board, and shall conduct all correspondence of the Board, keep all records and minutes of the meetings.

4. The duties of all appointed Special Committees of the Board shall be thoroughly defined by Resolution at the time of their creation or appointment.

Such Committees shall report as requested by the Board on their activities and decisions. Any business conducted by such committees shall be subject to review of the Board.

#### 5. Order of Business

- a. Call to order by Chairman
- b. Roll Call
- c. Reading of minutes of last meeting
- d. Unfinished business
- e. Reports
- f. New business
- g. Adjournment

6. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Board or those persons or person calling a business meeting to notify the delegates of such meetings at least fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.

### ARTICLE II

#### AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the official qualified delegates at any regular or special meeting providing such amendments are submitted to and meet the approval of a majority of the Indian Tribal Councils and Landless Indians. This Constitution and Bylaws and such amendments shall carry in force and effect until ratified or rejected by a majority of the Tribal Councils and Landless Indians of Montana. Such ratification or rejection is limited in time to ninety days from the adoption or date hereof this Constitution and Bylaws of this Board.

### ARTICLE III

#### RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

This Constitution and attached Bylaws when adopted by a majority of the official delegates attending at which time the Constitution and Bylaws is presented shall be binding until ratified or rejected by a majority of the Indian Tribal Councils and the Landless Indians of Montana. This Constitution and Bylaws must be ratified by a majority of the Indian Tribal Councils and the Landless Indians of Montana.





